



魔王の 始め

2

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試し読み版



BEGINNING NOVELS

Maou no Hajimekata

Volume 2 - Stage 2

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Side Chapter 1: Let's insult those who wish to be the King

Part 1

"You, beast!"

The moment he entered the room he heard the scream of the queen as she charged at him with a dagger in her hand.

Continuously stabbing him in the chest and abdomen, she was breathing heavily when Aur called out to her.

"Are you satisfied?"

He did not even appear to be wounded and there wasn't a single trace of blood from where she stabbed him.

"You monster....."

The queen realizing that it was futile to continue stabbing him, dropped her dagger and hung her head down giving up. Although it was regrettable for her, what Aur showed her just then wasn't his usual show of immortality but a basic magic trick. If she knew anything about magic, she would realize that this was a basic illusion spell.

There were two people behind the queen, it was the two princess's and they were similarly throwing gazes of hatred at Aur. The former queen Olivia was now 32 years old. Her daughters Patricia and Priscilla are 16 and 12 respectively. Neither of the women were inferior to each other in terms of their beauty, they were both very attractive girls.

The three of them had the same exact blonde colored hair and blue eyes. It was like looking at the same woman in different stages of her life. Priscilla still had an innocent face and resembled a tightly sealed flower bud. Her hands and feet were thin and the swelling of her chest was also quite meagre. Instead, there was this peculiar charm to her, she was like a little child that was

fascinated by everything around her.

In contrast to that, Patricia was like a lovely flower that was ready to bloom. Her body had a roundness to its shape, both her breasts and her hips were moderately curved but it was clearly being pushed up by her clothes. She was protecting Priscilla behind her back, even though her face was evidently cramped due to fear, her well-featured eyebrows were lifted up as she courageously stared at Aur with a glare.

If Priscilla is a bud and Patricia is a blooming flower, then Olivia can be compared to a bouquet of ripe flowers. Her voluptuous figure was tightly bound up by her clothes and there were not many mature females that could match her allure and beauty. This is to say that she already gave birth to two children, yet her body did not droop anywhere and she continued to maintain her exquisite body proportions.

"First off, there is something I want to say."

Seeing the three beautiful women in front of him, he could not help but to instinctively gulp down.

"I am sorry. Even though what I have done was necessary, I still killed your father and for that I apologize."

The Demon King deeply lowered his head and apologized.

".....Rather than apologizing, I would rather you return our father to us!"

"That cannot be done. Because what I did was a necessity."

Patricia was shouting out sorrowfully and Aur answered her back decisively.

"This country was rotting. No, even now it is still continuing to rot. However, it has not died yet. In order to let the country live, it was necessary to kill the King."

Aur continued.

"The former King was your husband and your father. Therefore, I came to apologize. What I needed to kill was the King and not your father."

Hearing his words, the young Priscilla burst into tears.

"Are you implying that Carus was unfit as the King?"

"Do you think he was competent?"

Asking her the question in return, Olivia kept silent. It was obvious that the Demon King did not have intentions to improve this country. But the fact that her late husband was not a wise ruler was something that she knew better than anyone.

"Allow me to ask you instead. Was Carus a good husband?"

".....Of course."

Intently maintaining her overpowering glare towards Aur, Olivia answers him firmly.

"Oh?"

Aur lets out a happy voice and impudently grabs on to Olivia's breast.

When she tries to brush him off, she finally realized that she could not move her own body, let alone speak. Needless to say, she was already under Aur's spell.

However, the fact of the matter was not portrayed clearly to her daughters that were behind her.

"Mother....?"

Seeing her mother getting her breasts touched so openly, Patricia let out an uneasy voice.

"Even if it is possible for you tell lies with your mouth, it is not the same with your body is it?"

Olivia's dress was not enough to be called vulgar and yet it was still elegant enough even though it showed her ample cleavage line. Aur placed his finger on her dress and pulled it down in one go.

Burun a bouncing sound resounds as her two abundant and ripe breasts shake and reveal itself. This might just be even larger than Lilu's, Aur was clearly admiring them. Olivia's mounds were shaped roundly like a splendid temple bell and even taking into consideration her age and size, her luscious hills hardly

drooped.

Using both of his hands to grab on to them, Aur massaged her tits in accordance to his desires as he continued to speak.

"You are telling me that you have such a splendid body and yet, Carus barely pays any attention to you? Just how many years has it been since you were last embraced?"

Although Olivia was currently in a state where she could not speak, she was at a loss for words after hearing Aur speak anyhow. Indeed, it has been quite a long time since Carus had taken her to bed and made love to her, this was something that occurred when she was still 20 years of age. Reaching the prime of her womanhood, she was not even capable of protecting her own virtue from a man and her own body was already beyond her control.

"Meanwhile, the person in question constantly enjoys being surrounded by his harem of women in the inner palace. Neglecting such a beautiful wife like you..... Even then, are you still going to say that he was a good husband?"

Even so, this was something that was to be expected. The most important thing to Carus who was a King was that a heir is produced to continue his line. Olivia gave birth to two daughters consecutively and she was determined to be a woman that would only continue to give birth to girls, therefore, after giving birth to Priscilla she was never called into the bedroom again.

"Indeed a King may need to consider such things. However, in regards to whether he was competent as a King is something that only historians and the populace of the country has a right to decide. In saying this, how was he truly as a husband and as a father? Did Carus really provide any careful consideration towards you girls? Did he love you and pay attention to your needs?"

Hitting it right on the nail, Patricia could only look down. Carus longed after his heir and after finally achieving his goal, his daughters were given little attention if any. Figuria being a small country that is enclosed by the large country of Grandiera and the Religious country of Rafanis, it was very important that a heir existed.

However, wasn't this something completely different from the love of a father? Having Aur clearly divide what it meant to be a King and a father,

Patricia thought about it for the first time.

"How do you feel, Olivia? Being groped by a man after such a long period of time?"

Due to Aur's skillful finger rubbing techniques, Olivia's cheeks flushed and her body was gradually aching for the embrace of a man.

"Why don't you speak frankly. About what you think of your Carus, as a King, as a husband and as a father...."

"Nooooo!!"

Patricia takes the dagger on the floor and swings down towards Aur's arm. Because of how slender and thin her arms was, she was not able to sever past Aur's bone and it merely dug into his arms, but this was no longer any sort of illusion and it was Aur's true body that got damaged.

In his own mind, Aur was quite impressed at the strength of her mind to resist him, but without even faltering his expression, he grabbed the sword and took it away from Patricia. Along with the fact that the wound in his arm healed, he lost focus of Olivia and her body became free.

However, even though she managed to regain her freedom, all she could do was closely embrace Patricia to protect her, from what (seemed to her) as a very angry Aur.

"Please..... Please forgive her."

Just by previously experiencing the fact that she lost total control of her bodily functions to the level that she was unable to even speak a single word, Olivia's mind had a seed of fear implanted deep within her. Even though she was trembling, she was still able to firmly embrace Patricia as she begged Aur to forgive her.

"Fine then. Depending on your attitude towards me, I may be able to let your two daughters live.However, you need to show the appropriate amount of sincerity."

Even if he said so himself, the words he just spoke was so cliché that he breathed out a sigh. Yet, the mother and daughter pair could only continue to

tremble their bodies. They understood the meaning of his words. The only one who could not understand his intention was Priscilla who could only remain teary-eyed as she blankly stared at the scene in front of her.

".....I understand.... Aur.....sama.... Then, please come to my bedroom...."

"That is not necessary."

Aur grips on to Olivia's arm bringing her to one of the vacant rooms with a bed in the back and threw her down towards it.

"You girls stay there and watch. [You are forbidden to move and to talk.]"

Looking at her two daughters behind him, he imbues his words with magical power and commands them. These two princesses were pampered and raised within the Royal Palace, they did not even know how to use magic and most certainly never had it cast on them before, but now they were not even able to glance away from their mother nor were they able to speak a word of complaint.

"Noo..... Nooo!"

"Well then, is that your true feelings?"

About to be violated in front of her own daughters her face was cramped with horror, Olivia continued to violently resist but Aur holds down her body and lifts up her skirt.

".....What is this....?"

Crawling his fingers into her secret garden that was concealed by her undergarments, Aur purposefully raised an amazed sounding voice. If she was wet from the caress she received from him just moments ago, Aur was planning on commenting on this fact to corner her. However, even beyond Aur's expectations, her underwear was already sopping wet flowing like a flood, completely soaking her underwear staining it.

"No matter how I think about it, isn't this way to wet....? Well, whatever. If you are already this wet, there is no need for me to continue with foreplay."

Whilst continuing to suppress the body of Olivia who was still shaking her neck saying "Noo, Noo", he stripped off her underwear and after taking out his

thing, he plunged it into her in a dash.

"Ahhh."

Olivia raised a high pitched voice. Her tone of voice was definitely mixed with her feeling pleasure and after being even more amazed, Aur's movements became even stronger. At first he instilled fear into her heart, but then he gradually provided her with pleasure making her submit herself to him. Although this was the same method he used against Sharl, the fact that she would feel so much pleasure from the get go was outside of his expectations.

"How does it feel to taste another man after such a long time? It would seem that your body is rejoicing?"

"Noo, you can'tt....."

She was refusing him meekly, but it was already obvious from her expression that she was melting from the pleasure. Even her vagina was strangling Aur's cock with diligence in order to not let go it. He was amazed at how lewd she was but Aur decided to use it to his benefit.

"If you become my thing.... I can provide you with this pleasure as much as you desire. You are beautiful. Only a fool would not embrace such a beautiful woman like you."

Aur immediately rephrased the last part of his words towards her. That's because he thought that she may really request his presence every single day.

"U, uu..... Noo, I can't..... that kind of..... thing.... I can't be unfaithful to my husband...."

Even though her body was writhing in the agony of desiring more, Olivia answered like so. For her to feel this much pleasure and still be able to say such a thing was truly commendable, however, the fact that she was hesitating so much in the face of the supposed man who was her husband's enemy was evidence that she was gradually falling.

"What an unusual thing you say. Isn't it Carus the one who first betrayed you?"

While grinding his hips against Olivia, Aur asked her a question. Like he struck

some sort of bell, Olivia raised a high voice, she was also squeezing her vagina as she grinded herself against Aur. She may well have an obscene body that could rival Lilu and this fact was seemingly transmitted to Aur via his instincts.

If he dealt with her poorly, she may well become the most troublesome woman in his group. While a feeling of pleasure crawled up his spine, Aur started to refocus his attention.

"Even though you have such a wonderful body, Carus completely neglected you and embraced the other women instead, isn't he the one who has betrayed you?"

"H-However, that was all done in his obligation as the King...."

Olivia easily runs into the predetermined escape path created for her by Aur.

"As for me, I do not mind it no matter how many girls you give birth to."

Aur spoke in his most gentle tone to finish it all off.

"Eh.....?"

"You have already confirmed yourself that this body of mine does not die, right? In other words, I have no need to produce a heir. You only have to dedicate your beautiful body to me, I do not discriminate whether you give birth to a male or a female child. I will also make sure to teach your two daughters, the pleasures of being my woman. I will also allow them to give birth and as the princess of this country, I will allow the prince to continue Carus's bloodline. Simply put, you will not be unfaithful to your husband. In fact, you will be praised for the fact that you have been able to continue the blood line of the Royal family for the next generation."

His devilish words which were not recognized by Olivia up until this point suddenly entered the inner recesses of her mind and enlivened her core.

Aur's words were being whispered into her; corrupting her mind like an extraordinary poison.

"I don't have any intention of keeping Carus's child that the concubines in his harem gave birth to in my Royal Palace. The only one that will continue the blood line are your children."

It was a wonderfully, sweet poison. She was born with a beauty that everyone envied, at the age of 14 she was already set up as the King's lawful wife. Continuing to behave modestly and elegantly, she was always aware of keeping the values of a woman intact.

However, she lost everything the moment that she was not able to give birth to a boy on her second pregnancy. Being pushed to live in the inner palace, she was supposed to be a brilliant 20-year-old woman but she was forced to live a tedious life day by day. Being made fun of for the fact that she was unable to bear a heir, she was not even considered a woman by her own husband and she was forced to live a colorless life. Her pride was beat up and shattered into pieces.

Even so, she had never hated her own beloved daughters. Her hatred was only turned towards the man that did this to her and the male dominated society. "If he liked males so much, why didn't he just have sex with another male", this was something she thought about more than once. Her life as a woman had been denied up to this point, but it was now being fully accepted by Aur.

"Yes.... Aur-sama. Please use me as you wish, please let me conceive a lot of Aur-sama's children."

Shedding her tears, Olivia gulped down the poison presented to her.

Part 2

"Now then Patty, come over here. Let's receive Aur-sama's love together."

Even though she was saying "noo, noo" Patricia's feet was approaching the bed one step at a time. Obviously her mother had lost her senses and even though she was being called with the usual gentle voice she normally heard from her mother, she was still struck with fear.

Seeing how scared this girl was as she approached him, Aur was thinking of another method. It would be simple to make her addicted to sex by using magic or even hypnotism like he did on her mother, but that would be too simple and boring.

"Come here dear, You need to accept Aur-sama's stout penis and offer your special spot to him. It might hurt a little at first, but it will soon feel incredibly good."

Olivia embraced Patricia closely from behind and spread out her daughter's legs for Aur. A simple and lovely undergarment appeared in front of Aur, Patricia's face cramps up.

Seeing her appearance, Aur thought of an idea. If its Olivia's daughter, she may be able to do it.

"Do you not wish to be embraced by me?"

"Is.... Isn't it obvious?!"

Realizing that she could speak, Patricia yells out her answer with conviction.

"In that case, let's have a bet shall we?"

Using his magic Aur obtained a candle and snaps his finger. Puff, the candlestick lights up with fire and he places it on the night table.

"This candle will burn out in approximately 30 Minutes. I won't use anything but my finger, furthermore I will not touch your intimate place. With these conditions and by the time the candle goes out, if I can make you willingly say "violate me" then it will be my victory. If you can endure it, it will be your

victory."

".....Fine. I will take you up on that offer."

Patricia answers decisively. Even though it may just be his fingers, she loathed this man to the core of her being and didn't want him touching her. However, if she didn't take him up on his deal, it was likely that she would have been raped then and there. This man believes in the skill of his fingers, but no matter what kind of pleasure she experiences, she was convinced that she was never going to utter those words.

"However, I have my own conditions. When I win, you will liberate my younger sister Priscilla and my mother. Moreover, you need to solve whatever suspicious magic spell you cast on them. Is that fine with you?"

"Very well. Olivia, you go over there."

He nods in a composed manner and agrees to her terms. Olivia reluctantly moves and gets off the bed.

"I will make a prophecy. You will willingly take my thing inside of you."

"That will not happen..... You seem to be very confident with yourself aren't you? Do you have some sort of trick planned?"

Immediately denying his words, Patricia kept her cool and asked him a question in return. The fire has already been lit on the candle. If she continued to drag on the conversation, she realized that it will reduce the time Aur had to torment her.

"There isn't really anything I would call a trick or secret. Even though I may look like this, I have piled up experience way above my expected age. You could call it an old-man's wisdom."

"More like you are a perverted grandpa."

Patricia says this and perhaps Aur found it discomforting to be treated like an old grandpa so his face frowned slightly.

"So in truth, how old are you?"

"Well, I haven't really been keeping exact count..... But, you could say that I am well above 80 years of age."

"8.....80!?"

Patricia became speechless. Even though she sarcastically said that he was a perverted grandpa, she thought he would be around 30 years of age or at a maximum 40. This went beyond just looking young.

"What's with that. Are you saying that you are immortal?"

"Well, you could say that. In saying that, it does not mean that I will live on infinitely. There is a limit to how much you can rejuvenate yourself to look youthful. The more time that passes, the required magical energy to support the spell will increase exponentially."

"How many years can you live up to?"

Patricia questioned him in the hopes that it would not be very long. If Aur's reign was going to end within around 10 years, then there would still be hope for the future of this country.

"A magician that is first class will be able to extend his life for several decades. Even for someone like me, I can only extend my life a couple of hundred years at best. I will not reach the age of 1000."

And hearing the answer, Patricia became depressed and she patted her own cheeks to liven herself up. Perhaps it was because the candle was lit next to her since a while ago, but she felt strangely hot somehow.

"Now then, shall we begin?"

Having talked to each other for quite the long period, the candle was already at half it's length. With this victory for her has been secured. Patricia was convinced at her own victory. Now she only needed to hold herself back from even speaking. Even though the condition for her defeat was a specific set of words, she also did not want to let him hear her pant.

Just like some sort of knife, Aur's finger tears up Patricia's clothes. Without even causing a scratch on her body, Patricia was completely naked before long.

"Wha...."

"I've only used my finger."

Aur puts up his index finger and shows it to Patricia. And then he uses his

finger in that state and presses it against her modest breasts and her tapered nipples.

"Hyaah!!"

The finger that easily cut up her clothes... Thinking that it may hurt her, she concentrated at the place that was touched and an unexpected sensation tingled all throughout her body as Patricia raised a high pitched voice.

"What, was that....?"

Never feeling anything like it, Patricia was both frightened and puzzled.

"It would seem that you are already quite aroused. You are so tense like this."

Aur slowly pinched her nipples.

"Fuaaaahhh!!"

With just that Patricia's body arched backwards. Before she knew it, her whole body was burning hot and she was breathing roughly.

"What did, you do....?"

"Nothing. It's just that the sensitivity of your body is good. As expected of Olivia's daughter."

"Don't badmouth my Mothe.....Hyaaaah!!"

Her eyebrows were lifted and she was about to answer back, but being played around with by the pleasure Aur sent to her body, she was unable to even reply in anger.

"I'm not saying it in a bad way. I am praising you. For a virgin to become this disordered is very rare. As expected of someone who possesses the blood of royalty."

"Fuaaah, N-Noo you can't do both....of them Ahhh"

Poking both of her breasts with his fingers, he caressed her lovingly and she was starting to lose her sense of reason.

"How is it? Have you begun desiring for my thing?"

"W-Who would ever.....Fuahhhh!"

Even though she tries to answer back courageously, Patricia's gaze was nailed down to penis he thrust out. It was dark red and covered with Olivia's love juices, the twitching and throbbing of his cock was the most indecent thing about it.

Even though it looked grotesque, she felt like it also looked very powerful and stout, Patricia instinctively swallows down her saliva.

Her crotch was already sopping wet and her body was ready to take him in. However, she was suppressing herself from saying the words, with her willpower of iron.

"Why don't you try saying it? Even if you say it now, it won't be considered your defeat, nor will I violate you. This is just practice. When you want to admit your defeat later, but you didn't say it, wouldn't that be troubling? "Please violate me", just try saying those words."

"Vio.....!?"

Her thoughts were getting disordered by the pleasure, Patricia was reflexively acting as if she was listening to his orders.

However, the moment she said the word "Vio" she realized that she couldn't say the next set of words and was in shock.

"....!Uhn!"

No matter how much she wanted to say the words, they just wouldn't come out. Patricia became desperate as she tried to speak the words. However, no matter how much she tried she couldn't say the words.

"Fumu..... It seems that you are quite the strong willed girl."

Glancing at the candle, Aur muttered out these words. The candle barely had much time left. If things went on as they did, it would end up being Patricia's victory.Noticing that fact, she was shocked.

I will win? Just like this? Even though my body is craving it so much?

Her whole body was flushing hot, she wanted to be violated right now. She was about to go mad just from the pleasure. Aur abruptly withdraws his hands and stops caressing her body. When he did this, her cravings became even more

amplified. Almost like her body felt an itch that needed to be scratched, her crotch ached, she couldn't hold back any longer.

".....!"

Even though she desired it so much, the words "Violate" would not leave her mouth. She wanted to be violated. She wanted to be poked by his member and ravished. Because she couldn't speak, this only served to fuel her desires even more.

"Is it time? It would seem that the bet has ended in your win."

The candle's fire stopped burning and disappeared. However, she no longer cared about such things. Her flames of passion burned brightly, Patricia could no longer think about anything other than getting violated by Aur. Nevertheless, her voice would not come out. She finally embraced Aur herself and offered her sacred garden to him.

"Ahhh.....!"

A voice of great delight passes through her throat. Feeling like she was finally able to scratch her itch, she felt extremely wonderful. Though the proof of her virginity flows between her crotch, rather than saying it was painful, the amount of pleasure she felt was much stronger.

"You've won your wager, so there is no need for you to get violated you know?"

"It's so good, that kind of thing doesn't matter anymore..... I don't care!"

Patricia places her arms around Aur's neck and earnestly started to move her waist. Whenever he thrust into her, her mind would go numb and this sweet electrifying sensation would jolt throughout her body like lightning. She had never tasted such pleasure since she was born and she deeply and innocently coveted more of it.

"As expected you really are Olivia's daughter aren't you? Perhaps it was unnecessary to even use the aphrodisiac."

Taking a glance at the candle, Aur mutters. However, his words no longer reached Patricia's ears.

"Ahh, Ahhhhhh, noo I can't take it anymoreeeee~::~!"

Patricia reaches her climax and moving in rhythm with how she arches her back, Aur thrusts deeply into her as he lets out his semen inside of her. The person in question said herself that "None of it mattered" so obviously, the deal he made with her moments ago was totally nullified.

Now then, what shall I do with the last girl? Aur glances at her, but her mother had already tampered with her secret garden, and Priscilla's expression was already completely melted.

"Aur-sama, all the preparations have been completed."

Olivia smiles bewitchingly at him and Aur became even more amazed at her. What an inconceivably lewd mother and daughter combo.

"Aur-samaa, moree, more deeper, please show me your affection..... please allow me to give birth to your imperial children.....!"

"Aur, sama...! Mee too, please pour your sperm into me! I want to give birth to a child..... that is the same age as Mother's babyyy ohhh!"

"Aur-samaa, Rishii too, please allow me to give birth to plenty of babies..... I also want to give birth together with Mother and Big Sisterrr!"

The three girls looked just like each other, they were vying for his affections and shaking their white ass, wishing for Aur's semen.

"Yeah. I will make sure you conceive my child. I will make you give birth to daughters and I will also make those daughters conceive. And then, I will make sure Carus's bloodline fills this earth throughout all eternity."

"Ahh.... Wonderful."

Olivia breathes deeply and mutters as if she was entranced. As a reward, Aur pulls out his cock from Patricia and pierces Olivia with it.

"Ahhh, Aur-sama, you're so wonderful.... Please show me the joys of being a woman... Ahhn, please teach me moree....."

Shaking her ass and breasts seductively, Olivia was panting.

"Ahn, Aur-sama, you can't pull it outt..... If you want to leave father's

bloodline here, you need to make me pregnant..... If it's with mother, his blood line won't be passed down right?"

Patricia turns to look over her shoulder with a pout on her face entangling her body with Aur's.

"Aur-sama, Rishi also..... Because I am four years younger than Elder Sister, I can conceive four more babies than her. Therefore, please let it out more inside of me."

Priscilla crawls her small body next to him and she starts to lick Olivia's vagina that was leaking Aur's semen out of it.

"You needn't worry, I will make you all pregnant without fail. Come, line up your asses."

Reacting to his words, they raised flirtatious voices and the two daughters lined up next to Olivia and thrust out their hips. Aur sequentially pours his semen into the three beauties and proceeded to have them service him altogether and paste his cloudy liquid and defile their pretty faces.

Seeing the rapt expression of ecstasy in each of the women, Aur breathes out. After 10 months and 10 days, these women will probably give birth to an energetic baby. If they gave birth to his children, it will no longer be possible for those who want to make use of their name to rise against Aur.

If a child with both Carus and Aur's blood was to be born, Aur's position as the king would become solidified. When that time arrives, all forms of revolt that were budding can be plucked from the roots.

It was quite troublesome for him to rule over men. It was much easier to deal with the demons within his dungeon. Just as he was thinking about how warm and bright the royal palace was and how dark and cold the underground dungeon was, something warm wrapped around his cock.

"My lord, if you don't pour more of it inside of me, I won't be able to bear your baby."

When he looked down, Olivia was holding his thing in her mouth again.

"No, a magician's prediction is very accurate. A baby is most definitely, inside

of your belly...."

"It's not fair if you only pay attention to Mother. I also want to be make love with Aur-sama more."

Interrupting Aur's sentence, Patricia clings to him.

"Yaah, Rishi also wants moree~!"

Priscilla complains as she pulls on Aur's arm with a jerk.

Within the Royal Palace, he could not access the magic energy in his dungeon core. Yunis and Lilu were also in the Dungeon. Mana is what makes up the insides of Aur's body. It won't do if he exhausts his supply. In other words, from here on out, he needed to use his own physical stamina.

These girls, were perhaps succubus's appearing in a human's form.....

The Royal women who were lined up on his bed made the Demon King shiver.

Chapter 12: Let's meet with the Residents of the Demonic Cave

Part 1

"It's a bad habit to overuse your magical powers when you act, isn't it, Ain?"

"You need to calm down. If it's you I believe that you can surely accomplish it."

"Think about all the effort you've exerted to come this far. If you put in the effort, it will surely not disappoint you."

"The most important thing for a magician, Ain. Is to believe in it."

"In the effort you've made up until now."

"In your way of life up until now."

"Everyone around you."

"Believe in them."

"If you do that....."

"You."

"Will"

"Kill me."

"I... Believed."

"In you."

"You traitor!"

"Wake up!"

Suddenly raising his upper body, Aur felt pain on his forehead. He was gasping with a "haa, haa" and when he looked to the side, he could see Lilu crouching down holding her head.

"..... What are you doing?"

"That's my line!"

Lilu was shouting with tears in her eyes.

"Geez, you were having some kind of nightmare so I was trying to wake you up, but....."

"I was having a nightmare....? Did I say something in my sleep?"

"Mn.... you said...."

Aur was wiping away his sweat and asked Lilu what he was saying, but she was hesitating.

"Just be frank about it."

"You said... Raz"

Hearing Lilu's response, Aur sighed.This was something that happened decades ago. And yet, even now it was still influencing his mind strongly.

"It is the name of my, Mentor.I killed her."

He tried to tell the fact in a low key manner but he did not succeed in brushing it as a small matter.

Lilu did not know how to reply to his statement and kept silent, the both of them were stuck in an awkward silence.

"..... Ah, what is this?"

Lilu blatantly changes the topic and pointed at a wooden doll in Aur's room. It was a delicately created golem, around the same size as Aur. On top of that, it was dressed in clothes and was wearing an amber colored wig on its head.

"Ahh... That. It is a representation. "

"A representation?"

Having never heard such a word before, Lilu blinks her eyes in confusion, Aur replies by saying "have a look" and holds his hand out towards the wooden doll. When he did, the wooden doll changes its skin color and turns into more of a reddish hue just like a regular human skin, it portrays that the skin is young and

fresh.

Even the face started to fix its rugged looks and its eyes starting to shine with a glint of intelligence. A mouth and nose also began to appear. The doll quickly turned into a human that looked like Aur.

"What's this, I totally can't tell the difference?!"

Even Lilu who was right in front of him, could not tell which one was the real Aur. But because they were wearing different clothes, it was something that she was barely able to notice as a difference.

"From my previous experience, I've come to realize that it is dangerous for me to go outside. That's where this comes into play."

"The theory behind it is that it is not much different from moving a real body. The difference is that I can abandon this form and return to my original body."

Both Aur's spoke unanimously.

"That's amazing, with this Aur can work for two people's worth of jobs?"

Lilu was purely admiring him, but the two Aur's shook their heads.

"If I am in close proximity to the body I can move accordingly, but I can't think for two people, nor can I use magic with this body. This clone is only useful for scouting. If I move far enough, I will be unable to control my original body."

"Ohh..... Is that how it is?"

Lilu started touching his body double presumptuously and looked a little disappointed.

"More importantly, didn't you have a reason for coming here to wake me up?"

"Ah, that's true"

After hearing Aur's words, she remembered her original purpose in coming here.

"There is something particularly strange going on."

Aur's dungeon had a variety of entrances. About one third of them are

“vertical holes” that descend directly to the second floor of his dungeon, the rest of them are entrances to his first floor.

Eventually there was one of these entrances that existed close to a human village.

"What is... this..?"

Aur inadvertently places his hands on his forehead and muttered. In front of him was a simple door made out of wood. There was no gate, nor anyone guarding the door, instead there was this big sign. Written in big letters was the message:

[Welcome to Aur's town!"]

"Well, rather than a town, it's more of a village don't you think?"

"That's not the issue here."

Wearing a robe and a hat Lilu was hiding her wings and horns and she was pretending to be a human. Aur looks at her and moans.

"Since when did something like this get built?"

"It wasn't that long ago. It's only just recently."

The one who answered Aur's question was not Lilu but another young man.

"Nice to meet you! this is the “Demon King's City: Aur Town”. Welcome, both of you. Judging from the looks of it, you guys are two magicians? It is an unusual combination."

The man with brown hair spoke with a charming smile as he approached them. From how agile he moves, he was probably an adventurer or someone with a thief job class. Wearing leather armor he had a dagger at his waist.

"Who are you?"

The man obviously looked shady and Aur was glowering at him as he asked the question.

"Woops! I've been impolite. I am Keith, I usually act as a guide for people like you who have come to this town for the first time. In any case, this is the territory of the Demon King. Don't you think it's a dangerous place? Even

though things may appear this way, I am in fact quite famous around this area and have a couple of connections. What do you think? I can give you a discount."

Aur and Lilu both looked at each other. While he did not seem to be trustworthy, he did not seem like the kind of unscrupulous person to try to trick Aur and take all of his possessions. This is what Aur judged about him.

"Fine. I will be counting on you then."

Aur took out a silver coin from his pocket and flicked it towards the man with his finger. The coin flies in a parabola arc and he catches it deftly with one hand.

"A silver coin, how generous of you. May I ask for your name?"

"My name is Theo. This is Raz."

Aur gave him a false name. There was no hesitation in his tone of voice and for a second, even Lilu did not notice that he was lying, but Aur himself was clicking his tongue inside of his own mind. Although he had prepared his own false name, he didn't think he needed one for Lilu, so he was put on the spot and what came out was "that" particular name.

"Okay, Theo and Raz. Then, I will guide you both so please follow me."

Keith talked in a friendly manner and passing through the gate he enters the town.

"Heyy, isn't Raz....."

"It's your name. Don't reveal anything."

Lilu was asking him in a whisper and Aur did not want to over complicate things and just spoke plainly. Lilu understood his intentions and closed her mouth.

This was the name of the mentor that Aur killed. It was a name that he came up with in the spur of the moment. What kind of person was she? And what was she to Aur?

While thinking about these kinds of things, Lilu chased after Keith's back.

"This town is a little different from an ordinary city, because there is no one

that owns a private house around here."

Walking through the main street, Keith was explaining facts about the town.

"There is not that many people who settle here. Well, there is roughly around 20-30 people perhaps? Most of them are merchants and they do business with the other adventurers. This town is a city for adventurers that wish to challenge the Demon Kings Cave"

All of those on the road here were adventurers that were fully armed. Meanwhile those wearing robes and those that looked like magicians like both Aur and Lilu were standing out in this crowd.

"The huge building close to the entrance is the Inn. Those without money are allowed to stay free of charge in the stables, it is a store owned by the merciful Martha-baasan. On the opposite side is Ox's bar. It is a pleasant shop where all the best drinks are gathered. If you guys want to find some comrades, you should probably make a visit. Food can be found here as well, there are also some food stalls over in that area over there."

"Stables?"

When Lilu repeated the word, Keith just shrugged his shoulders.

"Yea, the merchant usually comes by here in a horse-drawn carriage to buy some food but he only does this once a week. Other than that, there are rarely any adventurers who have horses around here... Therefore, stingy people and or poor people normally sleep in the vacant stables on top of the straws."

It may not be the best sleep to recover your energy, but it will at least keep you safe from the rain, is what Keith explained...

"The building next to the Inn is the brothel. Although it may be a bit pricey, it is the only establishment of pleasure within this city. ... Well, you probably don't need to go here though."

Keith steals a glance at the plump breasts pushing up from under Lilu's Robe and was showing a lecherous smile.

"Over there are weapon shops, armor shops and also blacksmithing shops lined up. If there is a small chip on your blade or some easier repairs that need

to be done, the blacksmith here can do the repairs for you. If the item is completely broken, then you would need to either visit the weapon shop or the armor shop to buy a new one."

"Would they be able to create any custom-made equipment's?"

Keith raised his eyebrows to Aur's question.

"For the time being, that kind of request isn't done. The people here already have their hands full with just basic repairing. Theo, you look like a magician but do you perhaps use a sword as well?"

"No, that's not it."

Aur had a seemingly cheerful expression on his face and Lilu was trying hard not to burst into laughter. He was comparing his own Dungeon with this town. The Dwarves in his Dungeon are all capable of making high-quality custom made equipment and he seemed to be proud of the fact.

"Hmm? Well anyways. On the other side of the street, there is a magician's shop and also a church. When you need some magical items, people generally enter the Magician's shop and if you have a wounded person or even a dead person, people generally go to the church."

"Is there someone here that can use revival magic?"

Aur was surprised and asked Keith the question. It is not impossible to resuscitate the dead. However, it is a very sophisticated and advanced form of magic.

"Ah, I am not really familiar with magic, so I don't really know in great detail, but apparently the area around here seems to be surrounded by a large amount of magical energy and people find it easier to cast large-scale magic. Depending on the severity and cause of death, if a number of reputable priests perform the ceremony, it is possible to revive a person if for instance they had a simple stab to the heart. Although, if their body got destroyed into tiny little pieces, then naturally that would be impossible to revive and even if they could, it would cost an extremely high price. Furthermore, even if they fail the revival process you still have to pay them back."

"I see", Aur understood the gist of it. It would seem that the magical energy

was leaking somewhere from within his Dungeon.

"What exactly is the Magician's shop."

Lilu did not really understand the concept of how people were going to sell "magic".

"Mn, you, yourself are a magician so haven't you visited one of these shops before? They bless your sword with an enchantment, or sell items that are filled with simple magical spells..... Well, it is extremely helpful for people like me who aren't capable of using magic ourselves."

Keith walked deep into the main street and then he pointed at a huge building that was ahead.

"Finally, that is Gnome's store. She is the boss in this town."

Part 2

"The manager?"

"Of a department store?"

Both Aur and Lilu were repeating his words. Keith nods in confirmation.

"In the beginning, it started with that shop. After gradually increasing the amount of hope, more shops slowly got created and after some time, it transitioned into a town. Well, because I wasn't here to see it all happen, I can only give you a second-hand telling of what occurred."

The Gnome shop was the smallest building in this town. Only having two stories the shop had signs which said "Dirt Cheap Goods!", or "Massive Sale of recovery medicine", "Gnome Goods store", "second hand swords" those kind of signs across the entrance. It did not seem like the sort of establishment a boss of the territory would have.

"If you enter the labyrinth and defeat monsters and manage to gather fangs, fingernails or furs of a beast you can trade it in for cash at that store. Any of these materials can be used in magical potions and armors. There's also other stuff that one can obtain from the labyrinth that can be sold in the store. Moreover, all of it is for a fair price. Thanks to that, we are able to stay within the town and make a living here."

Hmm I see, Aur breathed out in an interested manner. The mana from the dungeon flows forth and completely fills the area. Naturally, those that lived within the dungeon and breathed the air would obtain a thicker amount of magical energy source. Furthermore, those living things that were filled to the brim with magical energy would be eaten by even stronger living beings and the remaining corpses would be eaten by insects and rats. Then the weaker animals would eat those insects and..... the magical energy would continue to accumulate.

When monsters and animals alike all are filled to the brim with mana, it is likely that they will turn out to be a high-quality material. Aur actually prepared treasures for the purpose of luring in adventurers to his dungeon but for the

first time he realized that it was not really a necessity to provide so many incentives and he was frankly quite shocked.

"By the way, the weapons shop and the armor shop both will not purchase these goods. The only place you can sell things related to the labyrinth in this town, is if you go to this store. All daily necessities and miscellaneous goods can also be bought from here."

Apparently, this small shop seems to have a strong presence in the economy of this town. Even though the town didn't have independence, they still turned out quite well because they were able to specialize in the business of supporting adventurers.

"Then, perhaps I shall introduce myself to this manager."

"Yeah. Alright then, I mainly hang around the bar while drinking but if you would like to venture into the labyrinth please be sure to call out to me. I can always introduce you to some good teammates."

Keith waves his hands while walking away towards the bar, Aur and Lilu both set foot inside of the department store.

The inside of the store was much more narrow than expected and there weren't many other customers.

"Welcome!"

There were plenty of goods stacked and lined up together, the person with a beaming smile on the other side of the counter was this short girl with red hair which mainly congregated to the side of her head. She was about the same height as Sharl and had very young looking features, but she had large breasts that didn't match her appearance shaking about. She was hospitably smiling at Aur.

When he heard the term "boss" he imagined a wealthy merchant with a well-fed build and she was not what he was expecting.

"Is the store owner in?"

"If you are looking for potions, salves, antidotes, ropes or even lanterns and the oil for it we have plenty! We also deal with swords, spears and armors, if

you would like to sell any of these items at Gnome's store please feel welcome! My name is Nora Marucadeis and I am the store owner here. Please feel free to call me by Gnome."

The girl who introduced herself as Gnome talked in a continuous manner without showing any reluctance.

"Are you the one they call the "manager" around here?"

"It would be a mistake to say that I was the one who named myself but... I merely have a business here. It is all thanks to everyone's efforts that we have been able to build this town."

Gnome speaks engagingly.

"One would not expect a person to try and open shop in a location like this, any particular reason you did?"

"This is the territory of the powerful Demon King Aur. Therefore, I wasn't worried in the slightest."

Gnome puffs out her chest in pride and spoke with confidence.

"There are plenty of adventurers who dream of exterminating the Demon King and dives head on into the labyrinth in the hopes of defeating him, in the process they sometimes obtain treasures and materials to bring back here. Using the materials traded here, commodities are made. The created commodities are then purchased with more of the treasure brought by the adventurers. So my plan is to obtain treasures in return for providing this service of creating commodities."

"I see. However, what if the Demon King happens to be defeated?"

"At that time, I will obediently close up the shop and go to another place. But, that is not going to happen, right? Demon King-sama?"

Aur spoke in a jesting manner and Gnome smiles as she answers him.

"W-What are you saying!?"

"You fool, if you react like that, it is like confirming her words."

Lilu panics and was easy to read, while Aur sighed.

"Well fine. I did not particularly need to hide it. So now, do you understand what I want to say, Merchant?"

When Aur asks her this question, she gives him a charming smile whilst answering him with a resounding "yes".

"If I do business around here, I will become a nuisance for Aur-sama. After all, I am helping the adventurers side. There is no meaning for Aur-sama to stay silent and overlook such behavior. In that case, I need to give a reason for you to stay silent and overlook things a little bit right?"

With a kaching, Gnome takes out a bag filled with gold coins.

"This is 10 percent of the sale amount. Please accept it."

"Your shop is prospering so well that even I can obtain a portion of the profits, eh? Well, this much is natural."

Aur receives this portion of the gold and says "and?" urging her to continue her proposition. Her eyes trembled for a brief instant and Aur did not fail to notice this. However, he was not going to be someone that was going to be satisfied just by merely receiving 10 percent of the sale proceeds.

"..... I've heard that Aur-sama likes beautiful women?"

Gnome puts her own body on the counter, grabbing both ends of her skirt and lifting it up.

([Light Novel Illustration: Gnome lifting her skirt](#))

"Please, use this body as you desire, I will not mind it."

She was standing on her knees and was in the perfect position to show Aur her undergarments. "Hou" Aur raises an admiring voice and crawls his fingers across her special spot. Slosh, a damp and wet feeling is transmitted to his fingers.

"It seems you're already prepared."

"You praise me too highly."

Obviously, she didn't just get wet for no good reason. At the time that Aur entered her store, she already saw through the fact that he was the Demon

King and was prepared for this development.

"Aur, this girl is a virgin you know?"

"How generous of her."

When Lilu points this fact out to Aur, Gnome's crotch area was being caressed and she continued to smile sweetly.

"I have a motto to do things with whole-hearted devotion."

In front of Aur who she knew was the Demon King, she acted in such a manner even though she was only a virgin. Her courage and her intelligence, these were both things that Aur became interested in.

"This is no good."

Consequently, Aur answered in this manner. As one would think, she did not expect such a reaction from Aur and Gnome opened her eyes widely in surprise.

"Unfortunately this is the case, I am not going to bargain with by a woman. Indeed, you are certainly a beautiful girl, however, if you think that this form of compensation will be enough, there will be an issue for us both."

Aur embraces Lilu and grabs her breasts in a showy manner. Even through the robe she was wearing, Lilu's plump breasts was plain to see, they made their presence known and was indecently perky. Gnome definitely had a splendid pair of large breasts, but it was not something that could possibly compare with the lewd body of a succubus.

"Then, what shall I do?"

Gnome quietly watches Aur.

"You have the "Eyes of Truth" don't you?"

Gnome, doesn't blink her eyes. Aur continues.

"It is the "Gift" that you possess. All falsehood is exposed and the essence is made clear. I see, that this is how you've managed to make a living as a merchant at such an age."

"I don't think that it is as great as you say."

Gnome sighs and gets off the counter.

"My eyes are merely the "Appraisal Eyes". In a certain way, it might actually be rarer than the "Eyes of Truth". It is a half-baked gift that is able to determine the price and value of any object seen. It also states that you have the price of 10 gold attached to you. Normally humans are not valued. But if your body was perhaps made out of materials then a price can be seen."

".....Well just leave it at that. However, would you be able to notice how effective a sword is?"

A cold feeling ran up Gnome's spine. Without her being aware, Aur had already gripped her head.

"Be careful of how you answer. "Is there any other person who knows your ability excluding yourself""

Aur's voice was cold and detached. If she lied or answered in a way that he was not satisfied, she would be killed in a heartbeat. Gnome knew this by her intuition.

"The only person who knows, is, me....."

"Why?"

"If Aur-sama were to pass away, then my business who close up."

Gnome already composed herself to the point that her voice did not even shake and she answers him clearly.

".....Very well."

Aur separates his hand from Gnome's head. All the tension leaves her body and suddenly her whole body was gushing with sweat.

"You possess courage, I like you. Even if I need to force it, I want you to become mine, however....."

"I regret to inform you Aur-sama, but I am a merchant. Even if you were to deprived this soul of mine, there would be no profit in it at all."

Gnome looks at Aur straight on and states this fact clearly.

"That may be true."

Aur realized that talking to her in matters that do not concern the word

“profit” is something fruitless to do. He may be able to forcefully bind her with a curse or destroy her spirit and make her into his puppet, however if he were to take such a drastic measure, she would lose both her valiant courage and clever mind.

"I will allow your business here. Moreover, I give you goods that have been cursed to sell in bulk. I do not need payment, you merely need to offer them for sale to the market."

"How do you wish to get compensated instead?"

"I will collect 5 percent of the sale proceeds. However, this is in regards to the entire town profits. Furthermore, I will also sell the commodities you make here within my labyrinth. This will be the consideration. What do you think about this?"

"I have received your request. There are no problems with your conditions."

Gnome immediately replies. It was not that she didn't think deeply enough about the matter, her mind just worked so fast that she already finished calculating in her head, it was like she was a computer software.

"Now then."

Aur was playing around with the gold coin he received from her as he asked her this question.

"How many gold coins are you worth?"

Part 3

The first floor of Gnome's store is a shop and the second floor is her living space. She labelled her shop as "CLOSED" and invited Aur to the second floor.

"Well then... Please allow me to serve you."

Kneeling on top of the bed, she respectfully takes out Aur's cock and crawls her tongue over it.

In the end, Aur decided to buy Gnome with money. Her mentality was even tougher than most demons and he judged that this form of payment will be more stable and reliable than forcing her into a contract.

Her prices are 10 gold coins a week. Although it is quite the amount, but considering that Aur had direct control of the revenue from the income earned at Figuria Kingdom, this amount meant nothing to one such as him.

With this amount of money, Aur was able to make Gnome side with Aur, allowing him to track the movements of any major adventuring parties and not only that but she would also cover up any information that may become disadvantageous for him. On top of that, she also mentioned that he could do what he pleased with her body, so Aur decided to try her out.

Gnome was so full of confidence with herself when she offered her body as a "Commodity" and when she was refused in such a flat manner, she wanted to regain some of her wounded pride and that was how the current situation came to be.

"You are quite skillful at this aren't you? Weren't you supposed to be a virgin?"

"All the commodities in our shop are all first-class goods so..."

Gnome smiles brightly and wraps Aur's dick around her breasts. Grabbing a bottle from the side, she smeared the viscous liquid onto his member.

"What is this?"

"It's lotion. If we do this.... Look, how does that feel?"

Slimy and slippery, Aur's penis easily rubs across her cleavage. This felt different from a vagina and also different from inserting into a person's mouth, at such a soft yet pleasing stimulation, Aur became even more rock hard.

"Amazing, as expected of the Demon King, it is such a splendid thing...."

Her cheeks blushing red, Gnome holds the tip of his cock against her mouth. Just like that, she using her hand to firmly squeeze and massage his cock with her breasts and at the same time, using her tongue and mouth to crawl over the tip of his penis and suck on it.

"Y.....You're good."

A startling pleasure runs up his spine and Aur groans out. Gnome smiled with her eyes and continued to serve him making lewd sloshing sounds. At the same time, she uses her large breasts to wrap around Aur's penis and stroke it in alternation.

"Kuu..... I'm letting it out, drink up.....!"

"Mnnnnnn.....! Nnngu nnnn....."

Gulping sounds resounded as his semen was spurted out deep inside of Gnome's throat.

"Mnnnnnn..... Nnbuuh"

But because it was just too much of a quantity she reached a point where she could not drink anymore, she goes into a coughing fit and the cloudy fluid drips down her mouth. Even after separating from her mouth his cock still continued to spurt out the semen and it got on to her face and hair polluting it with his white fluids.

"I-I'm very sorry..... It's an amazing quantity.... moreover, it's very rich."

Scooping the semen that was attached to her face and placing it back into her mouth, Gnome muttered this out as if she was in a trance. However, Aur sees through the fact that this was all just her acting. His purpose in doing all this was to break her composure. Similarly, Gnome was also trying to achieve the same objective.

"Then I'm going to put it in. Spread your legs."

"Yes....."

Gnome was seemingly embarrassed, however she generously opened her legs. Beyond her thin bush which was hiding her special spot you could tell that there was no dark pigmentation and that it was a beautiful pinkish colour.

"Although you mentioned that you were a virgin, it seems to be true. Are you sure you're fine with this?"

Even though there is no reason to doubt Lilu's diagnosis of the girl, her demeanor and techniques made one think otherwise.

"Yes. I had already planned to dedicate it to the person who paid the highest price so...."

Gnome spreads that area with her fingers and shows it to Aur.

"Please, feel free to take my virginity."

Aur nods and starts rubbing against her vagina to become familiar with it and then he grabs her waist and plunges straight into it.

".....uhn"

As one who expect she must have experienced the pain, Gnome's face frowns.

"I'm alright, please enjoy my body."

However, she gives him a courageous smile and she uses her legs to wrap around Aur's waist and voluntarily invites him deeper inside of her.

Her small body was strangling Aur's cock and since it had just been torn it was narrowing on his member like a vice. But on the contrary, this extremely tight sensation gave him a tremendous amount of pleasure instead.

"How does it feel?"

Nevertheless, the tightness of her hole was not simply because she was a virgin or because she had a small body type. Gnome was putting in the effort to manipulate her stomach muscles in order to increase the amount of pressure. Even though she may be a virgin, her sex techniques had been honed and it was obvious that she had trained in the arts.

"Kuuu, this is....!"

Her vagina was squeezing him and it was trying to make Aur spurt out his semen, the tightening of her vagina made Aur moan out. If he had not been accustomed to having sex with Lilu, he would have already cum by now. The desires in his body welled up and his mind was screaming at him to spurt out his cum inside of her, however Aur silences those thoughts.

To make Gnome submit to him, he could not use magic nor aphrodisiacs, the only way was to make her climax with his own effort. If he were to use some kind of magic or aphrodisiac, Gnome's eyes would immediately notice it. In that scenario it would not be possible to make her submit. On the other side of things, Gnome was trying her best to guide Aur to reach his peak, so that she could assert her dominance in the relationship.

In other words, this was a battle of sexual techniques.

"Ahh, Aur-sama...."

When he poked deep inside of her, Gnome swung her head as if she was feeling really good. However, this was also just an act. Apart from her techniques, her body was without a doubt a virgin since moments ago. Her erogenous zones had hardly been developed and even if you poked inside of her, she shouldn't have felt all that much pleasure.

Because of this, Aur started to turn his attention to her clit. While rubbing inside of her vagina, he used the love juices flowing out of her vagina inside of lotion to apply on his fingers and start peeling back the protective foreskin of her clitoris, he then began to gently rub against her sensitive pit.

"Nnuuu....."

This seems to have some effect and Gnome leaked out her voice for the first time.

"Ahh, that feels good, please do it more...."

In saying that, this doesn't make her flustered, instead she further invites Aur acting very bewitchingly. Aur uses one of his hands to corner her clit and the other hand to crumple her breasts.

"Ahhhn, it feels so good, Aur-sama..... Ahh it's so wonderful"

Gnome thrust out her chest and writhed her body. There is no doubt that she was feeling it, but she was still composed. Meanwhile, her vagina was still clinging and tightening on Aur's member.

While holding back the pleasant sensations, Aur went into thinking. Even though she is a virgin, this level of skill in bed was really strange. However, Lilu determined her to be a virgin and even Aur could tell that she was and this is not something he doubted. He could even grasp the degree of sexual development of her vagina.

But, it was also a fact that if she was merely practicing by herself, this level of skill was something that she was too accustomed to performing. This is the attitude of someone who knew the ins and outs of men and often kept them company. Aur thought about it this far and he came to the correct answer.

"Hyaah!!"

Suddenly, Gnome shouts out in a high pitched voice. It wasn't an act; her coquettish voice was too sudden. And just now, Aur's fingers were buried into her butt hole.

"A, ahh..... t-that place is...."

"Having your rectum cleaned out so well, as expected of a top-ranking merchant, you've prepared very well. On the contrary, I've managed to even place two fingers inside of it without hurting you."

"A-Aur-sama, t-that place is..... not allowed, it's the wrong one."

Gnome's voice clearly went up in pitch and she was becoming flustered.

"What's wrong with it? Your spot right here is feeling really good right?"

When Aur starts to twist and bend his finger while moving his hips at the same time, just with that her body trembles and quivers, immediately spouting her tide. It's likely that this spot of hers has been thoroughly trained and developed, it was perfectly wrapping around Aur's fingers, trapping it in place not willing to let it go.

"Did you develop your ass while still remaining a virgin? I don't know who did

it, but this is a fairly interesting discovery"

"Ahhhh, please show mercy...."

Turning a deep shade of red, Gnome was shaking her head in a reluctant manner. It was obvious that she was trained against her will by someone other than herself. Perhaps some aristocrat raised her and used her as he desired, and either after escaping or being set free she obtained freedom as an individual woman and started to live her life as a trader.

Aur pulls out his fingers, he holds her body and rotates her so that she was crawling on all fours.

"However, abusing your weak spot like this reduces the entertainment value. Therefore, I will teach you the pleasures of this spot."

"Ahh, no, you can'tt!"

Just like that Aur pierces her from behind. Normally if you were to do someone in the ass, the natural body position would be in this form. Even though she wasn't being inserted in her ass, Gnome remembered the memory of the position and she was trembling in pleasure.

Once a body has tasted the pleasures of the flesh, it is not so easily calmed down. In fact, once her body felt the pleasure of being fiddled with, she desired those sensations even more and she was in agony.

"Here I go....!"

"Ahhhhhh! Aur, samaaaaaahh!!"

Gnome who was trying to escape from him was being held tightly by the waist with both his hands and Aur spurts out his semen deep within her. This was the fake semen created by magical power in the body of the wooden doll. It won't be able to create children, but it can deliver a tremendous amount of semen as a tradeoff.

"T-This much.....! Incredible, it's so hot.....uhnn! It's spurting inside.... of me!"

"I'm not done yet!"

Aur pours the semen and continues to pound his waist.

"Ah! Ahhhh!! T-This is amazingg.....! it's poking me, ah.....! I..... I'm cummingg, ah.....! My pus.....sy is cumminggggg!!"

Gnome splashes out another tide as she reaches her peak and her body loses strength. Even after she reached her orgasm, Aur did not stop spouting his semen into her and he was pouring so much that her stomach was beginning to swell and bulge out.

"Ah.... Haaaah...."

When Aur pulls out his thing, Gnome's figure could be seen, her face was full of both drool and tears and she was lying on her side on top of the bed. *Blub blub*, there was a sound of his thick and cloudy fluids dripping out of her crotch and dirtying the bed sheets.

"Next I will make it so that you can cum just from taking it in your vagina. As long as I continue to pay you, you will be my possession. Is that good with you?"

"Y...es....."

Gnome answers back with a hoarse voice that was barely audible. Seeing this, Aur nodded approvingly.

There is not much immediate significance to this battle. Whether they win or lose, the deal will still come into effect and it's not like this will make either of them lose themselves to lust as neither of them were people that are easily controlled.

Nevertheless, Aur recognized that the both of them were trying to win a match against each other. Or possibly it could also be that they lived in similar circumstances and each of them had stubborn minds that held a high sense of rivalry. Seeking an advantageous position, being cautious and being cunning, these were traits that both Aur and Gnome shared with each other.

"Well then, I shall come again. I will make the payment at that time."

"Understood!"

Putting on his clothes, Aur grabbed his bag and shouldered it over his back, Gnome sends him off to the entrance of the store.

"Aur, the arrangements have been met~"

Lilu was already waiting for him outside the store and comes running over.

"Please also make sure to secure the last contract firmly."

"The last contract?"

Lilu looks at him confused and he also tilts his head.

"Didn't he promise me that the next time I would be able to cum just from vaginal penetration?"

Gnome smiles radiantly and Lilu's temple became stiff.

"Aur.....? What does she mean by next time? Who was the one bragging about how they were not going to be involved with complicated women~?"

"..... it's merely a type of deal."

"...Humph. Well, it's not like I care. Geez, you old pervert."

"Considering that you are demon who has lived unscrupulously for hundreds of years, you have no right to say this to me."

"Unfortunately, I am at the very least under Aur's age."

When she saw the two of them quarrelling in this sort of manner, Gnome suddenly felt a bad premonition. With her gift which is the "Eye's of truth", she had already figured out that Aur's true age is 83, she also already figured out that Lilu was a demon. However, in that moment she felt something was off.

Gnome started to scrub her eyes to make sure she was seeing things correctly, Aur looked suspicious somehow and she asked a question that was on her mind.

"By the way, you have that baggage on you, are you possibly going to a trip somewhere?"

Seeing that Aur was prepared for some kind of journey, Gnome asked this question.

"Ahh."

Aur nods and preps his staff. Carrying the baggage on his back and holding on to his staff, people would only recognize him as a young magician ready to go on an adventure.

"I'm going to go on a little trip to defeat the demon king."

Aur shows a wicked grin as he said the words.

Chapter 13: Let's Capture the Dungeon of the Demon King

Part 1

"I would like to be introduced to a skilled thief."

Keith was drinking at the bar and Aur began to talk to him.

"Alright, it's finally time! If you're looking for one then you can bring me, I'll be perfect!"

Answering gladly, Keith tried to stand up.

"No, sorry but, if it's possible I would like a female instead."

When Aur answered in this manner, Keith sat down on his chair again and gave Aur a suspicious look.

"You prefer a woman? May I ask you why?"

Keith questioned him back with a low and dangerous tone of voice, implicitly wondering if Aur had any bad intentions towards the female.

"To be honest..."

Aur also lowered his voice to a whisper and pointed at Lilu who was behind him.

"That woman is not a human being. She is actually a succubus that I summoned. If I am looking after her and controlling her then it will be fine, but in the off chance that I faint in the midst of battle and I lose control of her, she may be inclined to attack any nearby males in the area. If you don't mind becoming a dry mummy in exchange for pleasure, then in that case I wouldn't mind if you wanted to tag along?"

Lilu lifts up her hat slightly to show Keith a part of her horn.

"N-No, I-I will pass on that."

Keith's face cramped up as he spoke.

"If that is the case..... then.."

The ratio of women going out as adventurers isn't very high. It's not like there aren't any women but the ratio is more like 1:9.

"Ah, there's still that person I suppose? Oi, Faro!"

Keith's eye which were looking around the bar finally landed in one location. In front of him was a young and small built girl stuffing her face with some rye bread.

"Fuahi?] (translation: Ywesh?)

While still chewing on to her piece of bread, the girl replied with little manners. "Come over here for a sec" Keith urged her to come closer as he beckoned her with his hand, the girl picked up two to three pieces of cheese on the table before coming a little closer.

"This is Faro. She's really small but I can guarantee her skills in the matter."

When one looked closely, this girl really did look quite small. Even being compared to the already petite Yunis and Sharl, this girl was even smaller. She is probably about the same height as Marie, or perhaps a little bit taller.

She had fluffy light brown hair close to gold colored hair that was cut short, opening her mouth widely, she was biting down on the cheese and looked much like a child, however, when Aur looked at her closely, he could sense that her green eyes were filled with prudence and intelligence unlike a child's eyes.

"Are you a Kudoku? How unusual."

When Aur says this, Faro opened her eyes as if she was surprised and gulped down the cheese in her mouth.

"You know about it? Everyone that hangs around this bar are mainly known as half-lings, excuse me for saying it in this rude manner."

Kudoku, they are more commonly known as half-lings and they are midget people living in the western area. They have been sometimes called sprites of the meadows, but unlike the dwarves and the elves, their place of origin is not clear. Although their raw strength is weak due to their diminutive body, they compensate their weakness with very agile hands, also their eyes and ears are very sharp.

They prefer a conservative lifestyle of peace and rarely go out of their home villages, and it is rare for them to interact with other species. They are hardly

known and are often mistaken for young human children. Because she was recommended in such a situation, Aur felt that her skill in the arts of thievery was guaranteed.

"This person is called Teo and is looking for a woman skilled as a thief."

"Fuuuhnnnn...."

Faro was staring at Aur in a cheeky manner.

"I see, if you treat me to a meal than I wouldn't mind joining. Let me just ask as a precaution but, we aren't going to travel into the dungeon with just us three right?"

"Ahh. There are about three other companions coming along. Our war potential should be more than enough."

"Okay!"

Faro jumps onto the chair in front of the counter and shouted towards the interior of the bar.

"Bar manager, bring me ten servings of beef steak!"

"Fuhh, I'm so satisfied."

Tapping her swelling stomach, Faro spoke in a good mood.

"Umm Teo-san was it? You must be really rich~. I never would of thought that you would allow me to eat until my stomach was full without being told to stop."

Bringing along the woman who was walking with small and quick steps, Aur was now facing the entrance of the dungeon. The entrance was located in the deepest portion of Gnome's store at the edge of town.

At the entrance of the dungeon, there were three other people standing by. Three shadows, big, medium and small were lined up at the entrance and since every one of them was wearing a hoodie to cover up their faces, their suspiciousness were first-rate.

Faro stops walking any closer as a precaution, but Aur raised his voice saying "Don't worry they are my companions".

"I've kept you guys waiting."

"No, that's not true."

When Aur talks to the three people, the tallest one amongst them answers. From the sound of the voice, Faro realizes that the one who answered is a woman. On the contrary, she even had an inkling as to who it may be.

"Hey, this person is..."

"We can leave the talking after we've entered the dungeon. There are plenty of eyes on us out here."

"Y-Yeah."

Being urged by Aur to enter, she nods her head slightly and the six adventurers descended down the stairs of the labyrinth.

"..... It smells terrible doesn't it?"

This was the smell of rotten flesh and the putrid stench of corpses mixed with blood. Not only that but the miasma also blended in with this smell to create an even more terrible odor, Aur was frowning.

"If you worry about a smell like this, you won't be able to become an adventurer you know? Hey, more importantly, I want to ask about you guys."

When Aur gives them the signal, the three people uncovers their hoodies. The face that appears beneath the hood was what Faro had originally expected.

"As I thought! You guys, are the three people part of "Allan's Commando unit" aren't cha?! I heard that you guys were totally annihilated, but you were actually alive! Then Teo, could you be the rumored Alan? No, you can't be, after all, Alan is a pretty boy, said to be handsome enough to be mistaken for a beautiful girl. Besides, the last remaining one is who exactly?"

Faro looks towards Lilu as she asks the question.

"This one is my familiar spirit that I've contracted with as a magician. These three are supposed to be dead. Therefore, because I didn't want to create a big commotion out of it, I had them wear these hoodies."

"Haa..... Then, are we planning on saving their leader Alan? So is Teo a

magician hired for this purpose?"

"Well, that sounds about right."

Listening to Aur's appropriate explanation, Faro nods to herself in understanding.

"But hasn't it been quite a long time since the "Alan Commando Unit" entered this place? This dungeon has been expanding in size day by day, now it is much more dangerous than it was a few months ago. I can still probably guide you to the second level, so please be careful of your surroundings and follow me."

Faro spoke with a serious expression on her face and everyone nods.

Using a torch and lighting it with fire, the party began their search. Nadja, Lilu and Faro was acting as the vanguard for the group and Aur, Wikia and Sharl was acting as the rear guard and support for the group.

Faro uses the torch to burn down any spider webs blocking their path and Wikia hangs a lantern on her waist. Aur was holding his staff and used his magic to light the tip to illuminate the room. Securing multiple avenues of light to prepare for a sudden situation is one of the basic of basics of being an adventurer.

"This torch won't be immediately put out even if it is thrown away, moreover, it may also be used as a weapon against enemies that are sensitive to fire attacks. Therefore, considering that I can still work with one hand, I am the most suitable one in the vanguard position to hold the torch."

while listening to Faro's lecture, they encountered a group of goblins raising an annoying voice that was grating on the ears.

Instantly Nadja draws her sword and begins to cut down the goblins and following her up Faro also uses her short sword to stab a goblin in the back.

"Ah, wait a minute."

Before the last goblin was killed, Lilu touched her lips with her finger and blew a kiss towards it. When she did this, the eyes of the goblin become clouded and the goblin staggers towards Lilu's side.

"Let's get this to hold our torch for us."

"Ohh, that's very useful isn't it?"

Faro was impressed and handed the torch to the goblin.

The monsters and demons who lived in the first level weren't particularly strong. While slaying things like huge spiders, huge bats and stray wolves, the one with the role of holding the torch continued to change and improve, first it was orcs, then it became kobolds and lastly an ogre.

"I'm totally free~"

Sharl mutters this out as she smiles whilst standing besides Aur's left hand. Besides Nadja's skill with the sword, Faro was also much stronger than expected. Just comparing them in terms of how quick their movements are, you could even say that Nadja was even more agile than Alan in terms of raw speed. Although her power was not particularly strong, she attacked at the gaps and weaknesses of her foes and she also had the right sword techniques to deal with a group of attacking enemies.

"Well, this is still only the first level of the dungeon. We should preserve our magical energy."

Wikia was standing by Aur's right hand whilst she calmly spoke.

"Well, how about we stop by here for a moment everyone? This seems to be the [Teacher's]room."

Along the way, Faro stopped by this crude looking wooden door. On the door was something that an adventurer probably attached to it. It specifically said [Teacher's room]written on an iron plate that was hung on the door.

"Teacher?"

When Aur instinctively sends his glance towards Lilu, she shakes her head as if denying his suspicions. This seems to be something that she didn't know about.

"So, If you are an adventurer that likes to dive into dungeons, most of us are indebted to each other. Teo, from the looks of things, your magical capabilities are very high but you don't seem to have much experience in actual combat, so we should go to "sensei" to train you a little bit."

Saying this, Faro opened the door. When she did, there was this translucent middle-aged man floating in the air. In short, this was a dead person that became a ghost within the labyrinth due to the miasma. The stronger the lingering affections and regrets of the dead person, the stronger ghost they become, moreover, as long as there is miasma within the dungeon, they can be revived over and over again.

Ghosts were known to possess moderate battle strength and for some reason or another it was being used in this place as a simulation battle for training purposes. Being named as [Teacher] this ghost was being used as a sort of training for adventurers.

"Ah"

When Lilu sees the ghost, she raises a strange voice.

"Gooooahhhh!"

In that moment, the ghost raises a battle cry and rushes to attack Lilu. Both of its eyes shone bright red as if it was shedding tears of blood and it was like it had gone insane.

"Uwah, what's this!? What's wrong, teacher!?"

While being surprised, Faro wielded her short sword. Ghosts exist according to different laws from living things. Most physical attacks hardly work against it, but if the attack is filled with a person's intention it is possible to "disperse" its form.

"Teo, a ghost is also unaffected by fire and ice attacks. Most magical attacks are basically useless. However, there is just one thing that is effective against it."

While watching Lilu avoiding the ghost's attacks, Wikia calmly spoke up to explain.

"I see.Do you mean like this?"

Aur creates a sign and chants a magical incantation. Chains made from magical energy extend from every direction and captures the ghost. This was not a regular chain. This particular chain will not be able to touch living beings,

but revenant beings like them will be binded, it's a form of ethereal chains meant for otherworldly beings.

The moment the ghost was trapped in the chains, Nadja steps forwards and cuts the ghost in half.

"Giaaaaaaaahhh!!"

The ghost raises a death cry before vanishing into thin air.

"Fuuh, I was surprised there. "Teacher" is usually a gentlemanly ghost and fights in a way as if to train new adventurers..... But perhaps ghosts also have their bad days?"

Faro spoke out as she wiped the sweat off her forehead.

"What's wrong?"

Seeing that Lilu wanted to say something, Aur asked her a question.

"That ghost just now, I think it was Georg."

"Georg? Is that one of your acquaintances? "

Lilu was speaking in a whisper and since the name did not ring a bell for Aur, he tilted his head in a puzzled manner.

"Rather than saying acquaintance.... Don't you remember, he was the village mayor from the first village."

"..... Oh."

Now that he thought about it, Aur did remember him having a face like that. Although he was once turned into one of the living dead zombies which Yunis had cut down and destroyed, for it to turn into a revenant ghost, this village mayor must have quite the strong willpower.

Incidentally, Aur was looking around as he noticed that this must have been the place that Lilu used to create the skeleton warriors. At that point in time, there was only one level to the dungeon and only him and Lilu was in the dungeon. When he thought about it, the labyrinth had grown quite big.

Looking around his dungeon whilst being deeply moved, he saw Lilu's face which had a similar type of expression. Seeing Lilu smile unintentionally, Aur

also unintentionally loosens his cheeks. In that moment, Wikia pulled on his right arm with a jerk.

"Come on, if we linger around here, the ghost will revive. Let's quickly go ahead."

Sharl takes his other arm as if embracing it.

"That's right, there is still quite a long way ahead."

"Now then, Faro please lead us deeper into the dungeon. Lil..... Raz, don't just stand there, please face towards the front."

Pulling on Lilu's arm, Nadja urges her onwards.

While thinking that this was quite the strange party of people, Faro nodded to their suggestions and resumed the exploration.

Part 2

"Looks like we've finally arrived at the end of the first floor. I'm going to open the door, but make sure not to hastily enter the next place."

There were four underground floors. Aur's party smoothly continued the exploration of the first floor without coming across any real hindrance and arrived before a well-built door. As the Kobolds had been expanding the floors on their own day by day, even Aura had no more grasp on the structures of the first and second floors. However, he was aware of the monsters stationed in the floors. Aur gave a heavy nod, indicating to go ahead.

Faro opened the door upon confirming his gesture. The place past the door was an ordinary-looking, spacious room, with several swords and armors lying around here and there.

"It seems that there's no monsters here, right? But actually, the whole room is filled with a slime, you know."

When Faro swung her dagger toward the open door, a part of the slime rolled down as it fell while making a squishy sound. The separated part was a colorless, transparent slime, which slowly crawled over to the door and eventually integrated with the body of the original slime.

"It's Gelatinous Cube, a transparent slime with a holographic body. Since it does have a shape, it's possible to cut its body even with a sword like I did just now, but the issue with this slime is that it quickly restores itself to the original state. You can see that door on the other side, correct?"

Faro's finger pointed to a door similar to the one right before their eyes that was attached to the wall on the opposite side of the room.

"That's the door to the second floor. In order to get over there, we've only got two options; to burn away the body of the cube on our way to there, or to swim through its body covered in a defensive membrane."

In any case, it was impossible to burn away the entire body of such an enormous slime. They had no choice but to somehow get to the other side. Of

course, that was precisely why Aur had Spina make such a slime. Even he couldn't help but admire her skills to be able to make the slime so transparent that one could see the door on the other side of the huge room.

"Well then, I shall burn it."

Aur made hand gestures and began to chant a spell. Wikia standing behind him lightly touched his body. It wasn't possible to store up magical power in the body-substitute, so Aur needed to have the women with magical power stored in their bodies present beside him whenever he had to use magic with this body.

Arranging in order of the amount of magical power, Lilu had the most, followed by Wikia, Sharl, and Nadja. Their added magical power easily amounted to that of several first-rate magicians.

The magical power Aur poured into them and their original magical power had a relationship like fats and stomach. There's a limit to how much one can stuff their stomach with food, but it soon turns into nutrition. And although it's possible to store fats far exceeding the capacity of the stomach, one can't use it on their own volition.

""Burn""

As soon as Aur finished chanting the spell, a flame extended in the shape of a spear and reached all the way to the door on the other side while tearing open a hole in the body of the Cube.

"Hurry up! It's going to restore its original form soon!"

Faro ran as she took out a lockpick from the holder tied at his waist. She very quickly reached the door as expected of her small stature, and started tampering with the door lock making use of the lockpick.

During this time, the hole opened in the body of the Cube had already started to fill up gradually. It wasn't happening because its injury was healing. A slime couldn't grow its body parts unless it got something to eat. The reason the hole was restoring to the original state was due to the nature of the slimes to try to maintain their original forms even if it'd mean a decrease in their overall size.

"It has opened!"

The door opened with a clicking sound. The whole party rushed through the door to the other side. Faro slammed the door close after confirming everyone has gotten inside. A clicking sound could be heard once again as the door got locked automatically.

"Phew... The second floor starts from here. It's a lot easier to go back as the door on the other end is unlocked. Also, make sure to close that door. Some time ago, an idiot used a wedge to keep the door open, which gave rise to a big trouble."

"Big trouble?"

Aur asked as he thought, "I see. The number of sacrifices will increase if I set the door to be in a locked state only when trying to open it from inside the room." Faro nodded her head.

"A part of cube jumped out into the first floor and greatly enlarged his body by eating a lot of goblins. As a result, all the adventurers had to join hands to burn it away. Seriously, it really turned into a big trouble."

Faro took out a stone resembling a pagodite while speaking and used it to draw a circle on the ground. He quickly drew some sort of pattern at the edge of the circle before taking out a vial from his backpack and spilling a drop of the liquid inside at the center. The magic circle began to shine as it turned into a barrier to keep other creatures around the place from getting close to them.

"This is called a "Camp", you see. It's quite a helpful thing for which you need to remember this magic circle in order to draw it with a pagodite like this. Then, you only need to spill a drop of holy water on the circle and it'll become a simplified barrier. They're selling this Camp at 10 silver coins per set in the magic store. Now, let's take a little break here."

With that, Faro sat down inside the circle. Aur gazed fixedly at her as he followed suit. Faro wasn't accomplished in magic and she didn't use any magical power herself, either. She just employed the magical power overflowing in the dungeon to put up a defensive barrier.

Aur couldn't help but admire the various ways adventurers could come up with to make things easier for them.

"Beware that the enemies are going to be even stronger starting this floor. Small fries like goblins and orcs won't be appearing any more. The second floor is divided into external and internal block. Humanoid creatures like Lizardman and Hag appear in the external block, and you'll find magical beasts like Wyvern, Harpy, and Griffon in the internal block. All of them are formidable enemies so don't let your guard down."

The area Faro called as the external block was none other than the "Grazing Section" of the floor that Aur had prepared for volant magical beats which frequently entered inside the dungeon from the several big holes directly connecting the second floor with the aboveground. Many big rooms were prepared for them to accommodate their large bodies.

"However, it's not like there's nothing good about this place. There's also quite a few "friendly" monsters on this floor."

"Friendly, you say?"

Aur couldn't refrain from repeating Faro's words in question form upon listening to the unexpected information she provided to him.

"Yeah. Especially, Lizardmen and Centaurs are relatively easier to communicate with. So long as you don't provoke them, you can often avoid getting into a fight. If you're lucky enough, then depending on the negotiations you could even get cursed items or some information about the dungeon from them. It seems wine and food are particularly welcomed."

Aur inwardly clicked his tongue when he listened Faro's explanation. Monsters that can understand words were comparatively obedient to him, but it also meant that not few of them would be open to make connections with adventurers. But it was not practical to try casting Curse of Subordination on each and every one of them. There wasn't much he could do to prevent them from acting friendly with adventurers.

"Having said that, the majority of monsters on this floor are hostile to us, so don't be careless around here. There's even some monsters that pretend to be friendly only to catch you off guard. The magical beasts in the external block are pretty strong so I really don't want to enter in there if possible, but this floor has been constructed in such a way that there's no choice other than passing

through that area to keep on going downward."

"Can't we just teleport directly to the next floor?"

Aur asked her while being well-aware of the answer to his question. Faro shook her head in denial.

"It won't work. There's a teleportation barrier in place at the next floor, so it's naturally not possible to teleport to the third floor and below. And although you can teleport till the second floor... I'd not recommend it."

"Why so?"

"Because the shape of the dungeon changes on a daily basis."

Faro gave a concise answer to him.

"Residents of this dungeon like Kobolds, Dungeon Liches... and huge caterpillar-like monsters keep changing the shape of this dungeon as they please. Thanks to that, when people try to teleport to a safe place they end up right in the middle of a monster's nest, or even get teleported inside a stone and lose their lives buried in there. Teleportation should be only used when going back aboveground."

"Does a lot of people know about this information?"

Faro shook her head at his question.

"The people who are aware of it have shared the information with their comrades, but no one is "kind" enough to go out of their way to tell others about it. We often hear parties comprised of decently skilled members using teleport to go down in high spirits and then never returning back from the dungeon."

"This actually turned out to be a pleasant miscalculation. Though it's the type of trap that would lose its effect after knowing about it, the fact remains that it's effective to lessen the number of adventurers up to a certain extent."

"... Now then, it's time to go ahead."

Faro stood up as she beat off the dust from her butt. Aur wouldn't feel any physical exhaustion while moving his body-substitute, which also meant he would recover nothing from taking rest. Lilu, who could recover her body's

exhaustion using the magical power of the Aur inside her womb, and veteran adventurers like Nadja and her former party members also had no problem in continuing the exploration.

Aur nodded in agreement as he dispelled the barrier and headed forward.

"External block starts from here. We'll be facing many volant opponents so I'll be looking forward to your cooperation."

They arrived at a roofless place after walking through a narrow passage. Looking above, they could see blue sky far in the distance. The air was more clear compared to any other place they had been until now, and bright rays of the sun illuminated the surroundings. It was the location point of one of the "vertical holes".

Faro pulled back the bow string as she called out to the two magicians behind her. Magic was more effective than bow against enemies that could dance freely in the sky.

"I might not be able to do provide much help here... Sharl, I'm counting on you for defense."

"Understood!"

Nadja muttered while carrying her sword on the shoulder to which Sharl replied nodding energetically. Nadja still had the opportunity to counterattack griffons and wyverns as they had to descend closer to the ground to initiate their attacks, but magical beasts like Chimera and Manticore had the ability to attack from the sky through various methods like breathing fire and shooting poisonous needles. Therefore, she had no way to do deal any damage to them as sword was the only weapon she was able to use.

"... Looks like they're already coming for us."

Everyone looked up when Wikia warned them in a calm voice. Three magical beasts were hovering in the sky while letting out screams and making flapping sounds with their wings.

"Are they... Harpies?"

Faro murmured as she aimed her arrow at them. Harpy was a kind of magic

beast with a woman's face and wings of a bird. It wasn't that strong of a magic beast but was intelligent enough to use various maneuvers, like skillfully holding stones with their legs and letting go of them on the opponent.

Seeing Faro taking a fighting stance, Aur stretched out his arm sideways to prevent Faro from shooting the arrow.

"Hold up. ...They seem to be the "friendly" ones."

"That again?"

Faro showed an exasperated expression on her face at his words as her shoulders drooped powerlessly.

[It's the Demon King.]

[Eh? Really? Really?]

[Demon King, Demon King, Hello!]

The harpies said their greetings to Aur one after another using words that would sound no different from noisy groans to other creatures.

"These are my comrades. Come down over here."

[[[Yes!]]]

When Aur gave instruction to them in Harpian, the three harpies flew in circles as they came down and stood before Aur.

[Demon King, Demon King, why've you come here, Demon King?]

[Demon King, I'm hungry. Do you have some meal, Demon King?"]

[Demon King, why're you together with humans?]

The harpies were making awful noise talking incessantly in succession. Aur took out some food from his backpack and distributed it among them. They seemed to only stay silent when eating their meals.

"I've already seen you talking with Lizardman, Centaur, Cave Giant, Mermaid, and it was truly surprising to find out that you can even talk with a Hag, but... can you explain me just what's going on? Are you a monster tamer or something?"

"Well, it's something like that."

The majority of monsters on the second floor were those that had directly made contracts with Aur. There was no magical beast that was hostile to Aur except for the ones with forms hardly different than a beast. As a result, they had reached midway through the second floor without fighting any real battle.

Faro was psyched up to fight magical beasts in the external block, but she never thought that she would instead get to watch harpies acting like pigeons, eating food from Aur's hand. Her will to fight had completely withered and she was more dumbfounded than just being surprised.

[Demon King, Demon King, that was delicious. Thank you...]

[Demon King, Demon King, our gratitude, our gratitude.]

[Demon King, Demon King, come with us...]

The harpies grabbed Aur's clothes and began to pull at them again and again.

"It appears that they want me express their gratitude to me in some way. Wait for me here for a while."

"“Wait” ? For what ? "

"This place is the territory of these harpies so no other monster would enter here. Get some rest."

"Ah, wa-wait a sec!"

Aur grabbed the legs of one of the harpies and flew into the sky, leaving Faro and other party members behind in a daze.

"Say, isn't that..."

"...Most probably."

"How nice... I'll also... after finishing the exploration..."

Nadja spoke in a very low voice, and Wikia tightened her grip on the staff as a frown of displeasure appeared on her face. Sharl rubbed her thighs against one another in a fidgeting manner while sucking on her finger.

"Ah... I'll go for a bit to see if he needs something."

With that, Lilu expanded her wings to fly away but the other three former adventurers grabbed hold of her shoulders and wings in perfect coordination to

restrain her.

"He told us to wait, right?"

"You shouldn't try to steal a march on us...!"

"If you go there too, it'd just make him take even longer to come back."

"Get your hands off me! Let me go...!"

"I'm the one who's dying to have him make me come, you know!"

Underneath the blue sky, Sharl's shout resounded throughout the place.

Part 3

The harpy's nest was in the hole that was formed in the middle of the wall. Perhaps the harpy's got the branches and the leaves from the outside, but they were spread across the ground and it was actually quite comfortable to step on.

[Maou-sama, our reward, rewardd.]

[Let's do something, pleasurable?]

[I will sire, Maou-sama's, child.]

After he Aur got carried into the harpy's nest, they immediately pressed their bodies towards him. For the better or worse, these harpies did not know of self-restraint.

Their countenance was that of an innocent child, they had curly blonde hair and big eyes. Their mouths were full of sharp fangs lined up against each other, but if they only opened their mouth slightly, all you could see was two cute looking fangs.

Contrary to their facial features, they had abundantly large pair of mounds and in contrast, they had a small and constricted waist. A golden colored bush was hiding their secret garden and half way down their thighs completely resembled that of a human girl.

Instead of an arm, they had large brown wings that grew from their shoulders. From the middle of their thighs downwards, feathers covered their legs. From their knees down they had small scales and slender feet that resembled a birds' feet.

When Aur reaches out to the armpit of a harpy to raise her body, it was surprisingly easy to do so. When comparing their legs to humans, it was quite short and taking into consideration how petite they were, they were naturally light. The weight of their bones were quite different from creatures that walked on the ground.

When Aur raised her body, love juices began to trickle down from the Harpy's crotch. They are known for their avariciousness more than anything else.

Whether it be their appetite or their libido, they will greedily consume anything that they desire without knowing restraint.

[Nnnn, Mnnnn~!!]

The harpy he held in his arms was facing away from him in a seated position as he pierced into her. The remaining two harpies had their secret place fiddled with Aur's fingers. The three of them were flapping their wings lightly to balance themselves as they started to drool with satisfaction.

The harpy that had a penis buried inside of her brought her face closer to Aur's neck and started nibbling on it.

[..... Ugh, yucky~]

And then her face frowned.

[My body is currently made out of wood so... .. Next time, I will enable you to drink blood.]

[Is that true~? Really?]

[Can I please bite on your hand?]

[I really want Maou-sama's child~.]

Each of the harpies were excitedly chattering as they let their desires flow forth. But Aur wasn't just here merely to enjoy a love affair with them.

[You may bite if it's only a little. In return, try to remember something for me. Have you noticed anything strange around here recently?]

To Aur's question all the harpies responded with a "Ummm" as they pondered about it.

[Recently, there hasn't been many humans.]

[There was something white in the forest.]

[There was some sparkling shiny water over there.]

And they unanimously spoke their pieces of information at the same time. Even if you could say their intelligence was relatively high for a monster, they were only to the level of small human children. However, considering their strong inquisitive nature and their ability to see even in the dark, along with the

fact that they had wings. These harpy girls had more information to share than he originally thought. As long as Aur could interpret their words it would all be good.

The reason why the number of men decreases in the area recently was probably because Aur had captured Figura Kingdom. Although adventurers didn't really belong to any particular country, there are a lot of people who are afraid to turn the king of a whole country into their enemy.

However, sooner or later, there will definitely be adventurers who possess the ambition and competency to dare to try and defeat Aur and take the kingdom into their own hands. From a long-term perspective, the faster that Aur expanded his power, the more that the miasma would accumulate and spread in his dungeon.

The white being in the forest may be referring to the white elves. Harpies don't really have a concept of east, west, north and south so he couldn't ask them for a specific location, but if he tried to search for them, he may be able to find Ellen's enemies. While imagining how wide of an area the harpies tended to scout their territory, Aur jotted these pieces of information down within his mind.

Nevertheless, what could the shining water be referring to? The harpy's wings pointed in the interior of his own dungeon. If there was something that existed outside of Aur's knowledge, it was necessary for him to begin investigations on the matter.

[This is your reward. Take it.]

[Ahh~! Aaahhh!]

When Aur shoots out his seed into the harpy, the harpy flapped her wings in a disheveled manner as she enjoyed herself. The harpies knew no shame nor morality. She thrust out her tongue while dripping saliva all over the place. She coveted the pleasure.

The harpy had lost her consciousness to the pleasure and he lifted her body up from him. Instantly the other two girls swarmed around his crotch.

[Don't let it touch your teeth.]

[Yeshh.]

[Okayy.]

While licking the semen that was leaking out of his cock, the harpies replied to him in a cheerful manner. Aur's seed contained a large quantity of magical energy and to these girls, it was like being able to take in the sweetest nectar into their hungry mouths.

Neither their technique or skills were anything special, it was like they were licking their favorite candy with their tongues so it didn't feel particularly good or anything. However, they had adorable faces and when watching them press their faces together and rub their tongues all over his cock, Aur felt mentally satisfied.

While enjoying the feeling of their voluptuous tits with both his hands, his semen was about to be licked clean. Aur was thinking about which of the two harpies would receive his penis next, that's when the harpy on his right sunk her teeth into his member.

[.....yucky~.]

And then she frowns at the feeling of wood transmitted to her teeth.

[I told you that you weren't allowed to use your teeth!]

Although he didn't really feel any pain, it wasn't visually pleasant to see. Instinctively going limp, Aur was shouting out at them.

[I've kept you waiting.]

Being supported by the three harpies, Aur dropped on to the ground from the air.

"Wh-What were y-you doing!?"

Faro was blushing as she shouted. What did Aur do? It was completely obvious just by looking at the white fluids flowing out of the crotches of the three harpies. Harpies didn't have a habit of wearing any clothes so nothing was being concealed.

"After all....."

Wikia puckers her eyebrows as she stared at Aur.

"I went to gather information. It seems that there is some sort of shining water beyond here."

Without minding about the reactions of the girls, Aur continued to speak.

"Also, I've brought a souvenir."

Saying this he passed on a big jewel right to Faro.

"Eh, what is this!?is it agate? Why is it so big?"

"It seems that the harpies had this stored within their nest. I'll give it to you as a present. Please take it as an apology for making you wait."

Like the majority of flying monster species, the harpies were extremely fond of shiny objects. From gold coins to jewels, to any random stone, as long as it was glittering, the harpies had a habit of bringing the item back and storing it within their nest.

Aur chose the biggest agate amongst their treasures and compensated them with silver coins. The harpies were overjoyed as the number of shiny things in their possession increased and handed the agate to Aur.

"Wouldn't this at least sell for 10 gold coins.....? Are you sure I can take it?"

"Ahh. It doesn't really worth much to me."

"..... y-you lady-killer."

"Isn't this half-ling a little too naïve?"

"That looks good, I also want semen as my present....."

"I understand he had an objective, but this gramps is making me irritated"

Looking at Faro who obtained a large piece of jewelry, the group of women were secretly gossiping about Aur in a whisper.

"So, do you have any knowledge about this "shiny water"?"

When Aur asked her the question again, Faro finally snapped out of her delirium and placed the jewel inside of her bag.

"Ah, yeah. They are probably referring to the "fountain of recovery"?"

The “Fountain of Recovery” was a place that was a few minutes away from the harpies nest. There was a small room at the end of a narrow passage and inside of this room was a spring of sparkling blue water that gushed forth.

"Is this a restoration spring?"

Aur confirmed the properties of the water by placing his hand in the fountain. It seems that the water originated from underground and it was a collection of water that seeps out as a result of excess water in the ground. However, it contained an overabundance of magical energy within the water.

"If you were to drink this water, your body would feel at ease and if you were to submerge your body in this spring, all your wounds would heal, even your magical energy would recover. It is a mysterious fountain of water. Well, even though it will run out of water after a while, occasionally this kind of thing would erupt within a dungeon."

Faro was narrating while scooping up and drinking some of the water.

"This place has accumulated magical energy."

"I see, as expected..."

Wikia scanned the surroundings with her “Magic Eyes” and spoke her thoughts. Aur nodded at her words. Aur’s dungeon was designed to take the magical energy from the dragon veins that intertwined along the lands like a spider’s web, after all, it was a design that was capable of carrying the dungeon core through complex interconnected passageways.

However, due to the fact that the kobolds and dungeon leeches expanded the first and second level of the dungeon chaotically, a deposit of magical energy was birthed in this place. When one of the waterways flowed into this dungeon passage and was immersed in a huge amount of magical energy, they merged together and the water was filled with hundreds of times more magical energy than it normally would, thereby creating this fountain of water that was higher in magical energy than usual.

"Wouldn’t it be bad to leave this as it is?"

Lilu asked Aur in a low voice. Because it wasn’t in a particularly important place, it wasn’t really that bad, but it did not change that this was a

troublesome thing. In saying this, it was impossible to completely control the movements of both the kobolds and the dungeon leeches, and it was even more impossible to just stop the flow of the underground water.

"However, Teo, you probably shouldn't drink so much."

Faro called out to Aur in a worried manner.

"Why do you say that?"

"This happens more often than not to low rank magicians..... But they can fail to properly judge the amount of magical energy they have left. After coming here, you probably used a lot of magical energy right? If you reach this place and have half of your magical energy remaining and then proceed to completely recover your magical energy, by the time we need to go back along this path, your magical energy would have run out. Moreover, this fountain of water may have already dried up."

"I see.... Is this kind of fountain easily found in dungeons?"

To Aur's question, Faro shakes her head.

"It's extremely rare. If you find one, you can only consider yourself very lucky and one should not hope to consistently come across it. Furthermore, it's going to become even more dangerous so we shouldn't stay here for too long."

"Danger.... ahh, I understand."

Aur stands up and leaves the fountain. After all, this fountain could be used by creatures other than just human beings. In fact, this spring was probably actively being used by the monsters that lived within this dungeon.

In that case, Aur also judged that there was no need to stir up trouble.

"Alright then, shall we get going?"

Nodding her head, Faro goes into thinking. To the best of her knowledge, this was as far as most adventurers could venture into the dungeon. However, with Teo's capability of speaking demonic language and his special "negotiation" ability which was freely able to manipulate the demons in this dungeon, along with the highly skilled girls that used to be in "Allan's Party" they ended up encountering good luck at being able to replenish their vitality and energies at

this fountain of recovery.

Considering all these conditions were optimal for them, it may be the case that they will be the first group capable of reaching an unprecedented area within the dungeon that has yet been truly explored. She was also an adventurer at heart, seeing the opportunity to explore an unknown area brought equal amount of fear and yearning that roused her strong interest to proceed onwards.

Unware that she was heading towards the edge of a cliff, the small thief looked forwards and her chest swell with anticipation.

Part 4

"...finally, after this will be the third floor."

Faro could hardly contain her excitement with the giant double doors in front of us.

"No one has gone past this point. At least, as far I as I am aware, we are the first."

Wikia gave Faro a startled look. She then looked up at Aur. A sense of Deja Vu enveloped her body. Her hands shook, her knees felt weak.

"Are you ready?"

"Yes, there shouldn't be a problem. Let's go."

So saying to Faro, Aur gave a fleeting glance at Wikia and moved his mouth without making a sound.

"I'm fine."

That is how the movements of Aur's mouth looked to Wikia, and her shaking stopped.

Ultimately, what lay behind the doors was...

Just a large, empty room.

"...huh?"

Fearing traps, Faro tested the room's interior and floors with his short sword as he nervously stepped inside.

"There doesn't seem to be anything. ...perhaps we were lucky enough to arrive at a time when the guards are gone."

Aur said brazenly as he surveyed the room from behind.

"...it's suspicious...but, there doesn't seem to be any traps...perhaps that's it."

"Still, this room could hardly be said to be safe. Let's hurry on."

Faro had an unsatisfied expression but was rushed forward by Aur, who then opened the inner door. The door would have typically been sealed with

elaborate magic, but it recognized the pass he carried and opened without difficulty.

"Uh.....Thank you. The one that is supposed to protect that room is Allan..... Right?"

Quietly, Wikia stood to his side and thanked him. It was not that she still had feelings for Allan. But seeing an only friend completely changed like that, and then having to fight, could only make one's heart heavy.

Nadja and Sharl may not have realized that the Dullahan was Allan, and Wikia had anticipated that seeing them like that would hurt as well. Being able to avoid that gave her a great sense of relief.

"It's not as if I did it for your sake. I have no right to receive your gratitude."

Aur replied coldly. It was mostly from the heart.

Dullahan's are immortal beings. Take one down and it will rise again in a day. That being said, once down, there won't be anyone to guard for that day, and that leaves some concern.

Furthermore, there was no guarantee that they could win. Created by a curse, the Dullahan's that drove carriages that were pulled by headless horses were a formidable enemy. They drove through a vast room and shot out magic spells, if you carelessly got too close, the carriage would send you flying off. With Aur and his team's fighting power, there was a high probability that victory would still be accompanied by casualties.

"...hmmm. But, thanks."

Not smiling either, but in a clear voice, Wikia thanked Aur.

"This is, the third floor..."

After descending the long, long flight of steps, and gazing at the unprecedented view that spread out before them, Faro swallowed hard.

The scenery gave off a completely different atmosphere than the second floor, which had corpses strewn everywhere, was filthy and claustrophobic, and felt dreary.

The ceiling was high, and the corridors were very wide. The walls were

covered in neat bricks and reinforced in different places with pillars. The floors were paved in stone much like an avenue of the Imperial Capital.

There was hardly any odor, the streets exuded cleanliness, the walls gave off a dim glow that seemed to provide enough visibility without a torch, at least for a while.

"Be careful. I don't know what will happen past this point."

While her expression stayed serious, there was a hint of excitement in Faro's voice.

Aur and the group remained cautious and continued through the dungeon.

"Be careful. There, a trap will activate if you step on it. ...There as well. If you trip over that line, a boulder or something is likely to fall from above...wait! Don't step over the line. There is a pitfall there. The inside is...lined with spears. Dangerous, dangerous. Mmm...here, there is something odd about this wall. ... It's a hidden door."

Not a single monster appeared on the third floor. Instead, the dungeon grew more complex, with numerous traps set about. Hidden doors, one-way corridors, turning floors, spears flying out of ceilings and floors, arrows shot from walls, a giant boulder rolling down a corridor.

The deadliness, even cleverness, and tangible malice of these traps were on a different level than those from the second floor. However, Faro saw through them, avoided and deactivated them. While Aur was casually avoiding the very deadly traps, he was very impressed with her skills and intuition.

"I had heard that you were a bandit with great skills, it's really quite something."

"Heheh. It's that, I'm just very excited right now. It's at these times that I feel amazing. To me, each trap looks like it's calling me over and smiling."

Faro said, as she turned and removed the key from the door with one hand. Click, came a sound, and at that moment, she pulled her hand back and moved her face from the keyhole to the side. At nearly the exact same instant, a thin, arrow-like object shot out from the keyhole and pierced the wall behind her.

"At any rate, whoever set these traps is quite insidious, huh. It must be someone who understands human nature completely, an ill-natured, devilish person. He finds your weakness, like a snake attacking from your blind spot." Faro opened the door, but instead of entering, she thrust her short sword into the room. At that same moment, a guillotine fell from the frame of the entrance, sending sparks flying from the sword. The mechanism was to bisect relieved adventurers who had opened the door and avoided the first trap.

"Like that. When people think they are safe, when you think this can't be it, that's when it hits. It would probably be dangerous even for me if I wasn't on a roll like I am now."

"Indeed, I'm sure he's very ill-natured..."

Lilu heartily expressed her agreement.

"Ahaha, it's over once a real demon says that to you. In any case, this...what is this?"

On the other side of the door was an even stranger sight. The ceiling was several times higher, and in different places, magical light shone and illuminated the area. Instead of stone paving, the ground was covered in soil, there was soft, short grass growing over it.

Because it was still dim, you could not see very far, but from what you could see, it was a very large room. There were no corridors, there were several thick pillars that ran up to the ceiling for support.

This place had a tranquil atmosphere that made you forget you were in a dungeon, but Faro was tense, and her sensitive senses were able to detect the presence of those that hid deep within.

"Be careful. ...There's something here. And it's extremely ferocious."

Her voice lowered naturally, Faro's expression tightened as she slowly moved further in.

"It's close... It's coming towards us. There!!"

The thing appeared from the shadow of a pillar. A ferocious hellhound, a hideous giant, or maybe a dragon. Faro pictured their strongest moves in

different patterns in her head, her eyes were opened wide to make out the enemy, which turned out to be.

A drab and plain girl you might have found anywhere.

""...Eh?""

Without thinking, both of them stared at each other, dumbfounded. ...no, the girl's gaze was slightly off from Faro, going past her. The man further on was holding a hand to his forehead, and sighing inwardly. Why are you in such a place? He thought.

"You...you are a human right? Why are you here?"

Faro questioned, having returned to herself. The plain girl who was Mio, was dripping with cold sweat. I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I just thought that they might be hungry and, she looked at Aur but the look he returned seemed to answer, I thought I sent a notice for you to stay quietly in your room, while we go explore the dungeon today...

"Uh, eh, um."

As Mio tried to find an answer, Aur sighed once again, he pointed his thumb downwards and slit his throat from the side. Eh, what's that, does that mean you're going to kill me as soon as we get back, Mio's face turned white. Aur scowled, wrong, and he points his finger towards himself. Without making a sound, he mouths "Do it".

"I, I'm sorry!"

Who knows who that apology was intended for. She lowered her head in a deep bow, and in a high-pitched voice, called.

"John, Jeffrey, Justin, Joseph!"

And without missing a beat, she swung her arms downwards and pointed a finger at Faro; let out a command.

"Attack!"

Staggered by Mio, Faro was dumbfounded as Aur grabbed her by the collar and pulled. Snaggleteeth clanged as they converged in front of her eyes while she was being pulled away.

"We're running away."

"Eh? Eh? Eh?"

And just like that, Aur had picked up her small body and began to run with all his strength. The beasts that appeared from the shadows howled, they charged through the dungeon to tear them limb from limb.

"What is that, what's going on!?"

A black hellhound, the head of a lion and the body of a mountain goat, a chimera with a snake for a tail, a griffin with the speed of an eagle and the ferocity of a lion, the two-headed hound Ultros. Normally they would never gather in a group, they are more likely to kill each other, being completely different species of beasts, but they were all cooperating together to drive out Aur and the group. The sight was that of a nightmare.

"[Accelerate]!"

"[Wall of ice]!"

Sharl and Wikia cast spells in rapid succession. Aur and the group's speed increased greatly, ice came up from the ground and stopped the beasts.

"It won't hold for long. Hurry."

They were hardly waiting for her encouragement, and with all the strength they had, the company fled.

"I think we lost them..."

Of course, there is no way that human legs would allow us to lose them if we were being chased at full speed, Mio should understand that as well. The pursuit of the beasts had somehow been halted.

"Um, I'm, okay now..."

Faro said, looking embarrassed in Aur's arms.

"Ahh...so you're not hurt."

Aur remembered that he was carrying her, and put her on the ground. With a body without tiredness or pain, you had a tendency to become oblivious to this kind of things.

"Ye, yeah. Theo protected me."

Looking away, Faro's cheeks flushed as she said it.

"Perverted geezer."

"Womanizer."

"Is that your preferred body type...?"

"I too want to be picked up and squeezed as you walk through the dungeon..."

"Wait, that's not even possible."

Each of the lovers griped as they pleased, and Aur apologetically said.

"More importantly...look over there."

Aur coughed, and as if to mask it, pointed his finger. There was a giant double door. Unlike the bare and simply constructed ones they had come across up until now, there were detailed carvings as if boasting of one's majesty, decorating it.

"Is that...could it be, the Demon Lord's...?"

"That is very likely."

Faro murmured, Aur nodded. Faro took in a deep breath to calm her nerves and exhaled. She shut her eyes tight, stayed her loudly beating heart, and prepared herself.

"...we came this far, let's go. That's what you intend right?"

"Of course."

Aur nodded.

As Nadja and Lilu pushed open the doors, the interior of the room slowly covered in dew. The room was unnaturally dark, even with a lantern you would not be able to see the other side. Cautiously, they stepped in, when suddenly the door slammed behind their backs.

In spite of having lanterns and torches, their surroundings were completely enveloped by darkness, they could not even see each other's faces.

Was this a trap, as soon as Faro went into a fighting stance, a light appeared in the empty air. There were two in the back on both sides of the room. A red

flame illuminated the room, and further down, there were two more on each side, they lit up one by one. Like a road of fire.

"I'm impressed you made this far..."

A low voice echoed through the room. Behind the road of fire, barely visible, was the figure of something gigantic. A miasma so overpowering, you could smell the odor. Faro was convinced that this was the Demon Lord.

"Brave, yet foolish people. What is it that you desire. Wealth, or fame? Will you gamble with your one life for things that will not last."

The Demon Lord sneered, but the question he threw was quite serious.

"I have no interest in either. I wish for just one thing...the things I've never seen, places I've never been to, to see them with my own eyes."

The Demon Lord stands up from his throne. He raises his arms wide and howled.

"Then gaze on, at my splendor! And let it burn into your eyes as you breathe your last breath in my arms GHHhhh-!!"

His last line was never finished. Because the [Ice Spear]that Wikia had thrown with all her might had pierced into his face.

"[Cleansing Flame]!"

"Wa, wai...!"

The silver flames that Sharl shot out burned the Demon Lord,

"[Stones of Ice]"

"Hey, I said wait!"

Wikia's magic froze the Demon Lord's feet, preventing him from moving.

"[Explode]"

"Ahh!! You bastards!"

And then Aur's magic burst out.

Then, Nadja held her sword above her head to cut into him, matching her timing, Faro let an arrow loose. If he tried to avoid one, he would be hit by the

other. The special poison on the arrowhead would slacken his muscles, Demon Lord or not, he would not be able to move.

"I SAID TO WAIT A MOMENT!!"

The Demon Lord howled, the flames sprang upwards. In the second she hesitated, a strong reddish copper arm grabbed her, the other arm stopped the arrow. Illuminated by the rising flames, was the figure of the giant demon with four arms.

In spite of hitting him with so many attacks, there was not a single scratch on his body, even the ice at his feet had instantly evaporated by the flames.

"He resisted everything, huh."

Aur grimaced and clicked his tongue. High-ranking demons had bodies that were filled with concentrated magic power. That magic power interferes with spells, making them difficult to have an effect. However, blocking every single one was more than he had expected.

"Hey, you. I didn't hear anything about having this much done to me?"

"Well, yeah, I didn't tell you. It wouldn't be much of a fight if we had made an appointment."

"I would have strictly ordered you to not attack me, and there wouldn't even be a fight!?"

The Demon Lord substitute known as Logan threw out Nadja's body and shouted.

"And you even cut me off when I was speaking! You witch girl over there! Do you understand nothing about the beauty of style!"

"It just sounds like a pervert talking rubbish when you say it."

"Shut up! Ahh, your looks are doing it for me but your insides are... barely safe... no, it's an out...mmm, maybe a sa-ut then."

Having Logan look at her up and down, Faro was at a loss as to what was happening but finally returned to herself.

"Wh, what is happening!? Why are you guys acting so familiar with the Demon Lord..."

"I was late in introducing myself."

Before anyone knew it, Aur was sitting on the throne in the back of the room, crossing his legs. In his hand was a wine glass containing liquid as red as blood.

"My name is Aur. I'm called the Demon King, I am the master of this dungeon. Faro, thank you for leading me all the way here."

Aur is surprisingly the type that cares about form.

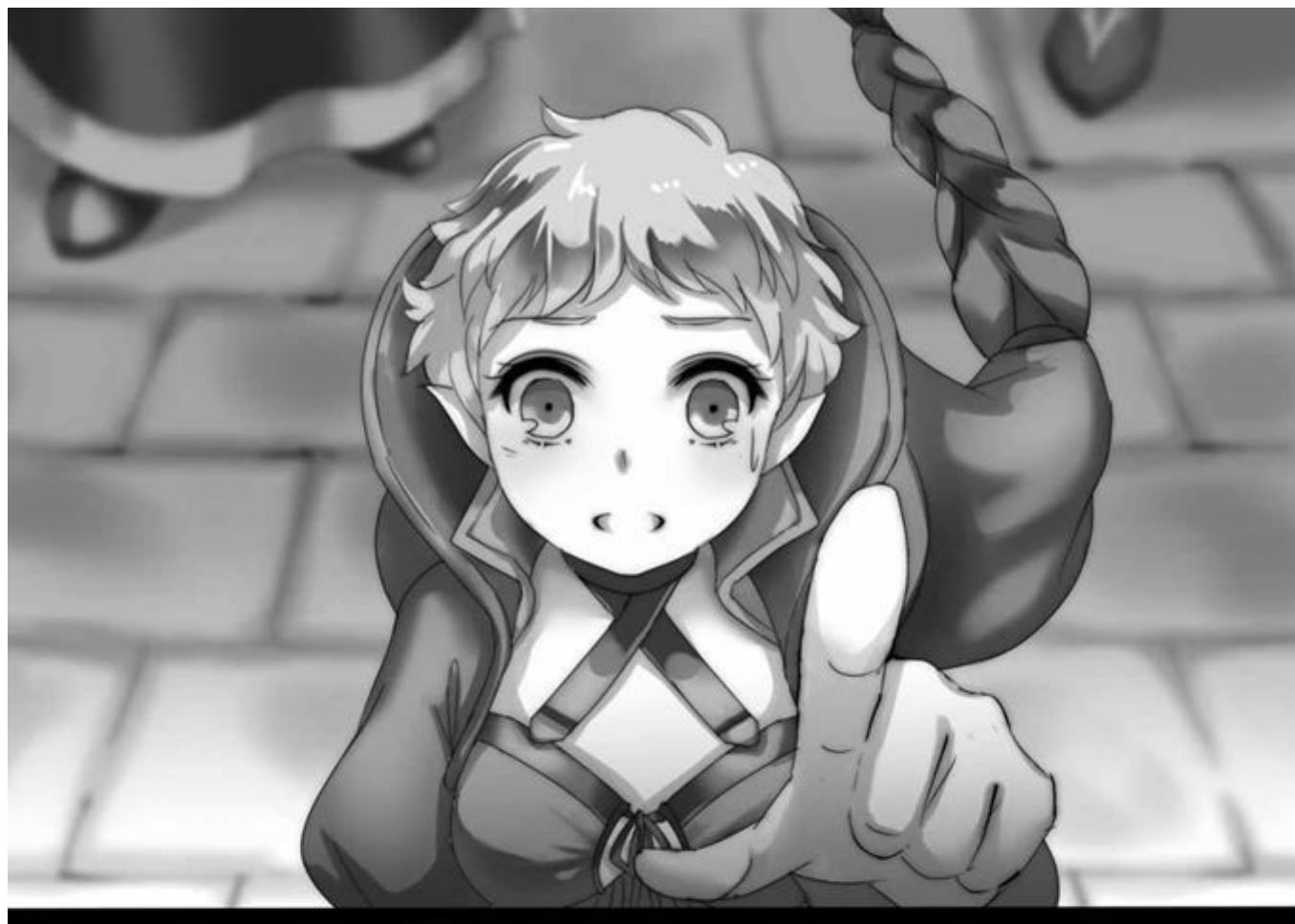
I mean, why did he have to sit on the throne anyway?

I wonder if he had prepared that wine glass long beforehand.

Now that the exploration is finished, will he finally sleep with me.

As Aur ceremoniously spoke, all of his lovers silently made quips.





Part 5

"But...how. The Demon Lord was supposed to be a copper-skinned demon with four arms."

That was a rumour started by soldiers who had seen Logan after Aur rose to the position of Demon King. It benefited Aur enough that he allowed it to continue to spread."

"And on top of that, I can't believe that [Alan's group] would aid the Demon Lord."

"I'm sorry. But we were Master Aur's faithful subjects from the beginning."

You're the only one who believes that; Wikia thought quietly, the rest of them gathered around the throne as if to snuggle up to Aur.

"Well, it's not like you had much chance of noticing it. I was casting light charms on you all the way through."

Lilu put both hands on Faro's shoulders and chuckled maliciously.

"...I suppose you won't, allow me to just leave."

Faro asked already knowing the answer, and Aur nodded.

"Indeed. Your work ended up being very useful. Because of you, I was able to reevaluate the dungeon from the perspective of an adventurer, and its deficiencies and strengths have become clear. I am very grateful to you in that regard. Additionally, I have no skilled bandits similar to you among my subordinates. I will reward you reasonably if you agree to join me as a follower."

"And if I refuse?"

"Indeed...a ghost, slime ingredients, beast food. You can have your choice of ultimate fate."

Faro breathed a long sigh. She was completely surrounded and all doors were shut. There was no hope of her escaping by herself. Even if she could escape from this room, outside was the beast farm, and passed that was the cube

room which would be impossible for her to get through.

"Fine, I yield. I will join Theo...no, you as a follower. But I have just one request."

Aur mentally cocked his head to the side. For someone who was plotting something, Faro's expression was full of despair. But her eyes were not shining. If anything, she appeared to be brimming with expectation.

"What is it? Say it."

If it's an unreasonable request he can just refuse it. Faro was encouraged by that the thought, and the answer that she gave was beyond anyone's expectations.

"Wow, amazing!"

Faro let out a cheer at the scene laid out before her. Moving the throne in the 'Demon Lord Room' had revealed a hidden door with stairs leading down to the fourth floor.

This floor was for the residence of the stagehands who aided Aur.

It was completely different in appearance in comparison to the above floors. In the first place, if there happened to be someone who could reach the 'Demon Lord Room' and defeat Logan, they would receive treasure on the spot and be guided towards a magical teleportation square to the outside world. Having conquered the Demon Lord of the dungeon and acquired the treasure, there is no doubt that the elated adventurers would unquestioningly choose the path home.

Unfortunately for them, the magical teleportation square will take you to a destination that is 1 mile(approximately 1,600 meters) up in the air once stepped on, and after a graceful flight in the sky, your fate will be the mirror of a ripe tomato that's been dropped on the ground. There are not many sorcerers who could accurately cast a spell while falling after being launched up in the air. And even if there were, it would be next to impossible to simultaneously have your company and your treasure levitate at the same time, so they would likely have to give up on the treasure.

Treasure-loving wyverns and griffon nests await right underneath. This

arrangement allows for the retrieval of treasure on top of sending food.

In any case, no consideration was put into enemy invasion when building the fourth floor, so its structure differed greatly from the others.

The streets were made to be wide and straight, ensuring that one could never get lost. There were no traps anywhere, instead, there were magic lamps here and there that gave the place an evening glow. In fact, there existed a pseudo day and night cycle through the adjusting of light depending on the time.

The stench of death and even miasma was shut off with a barrier, leaving it just as clean as any town on the surface. Houses lined the area and the demi-human under Aur's rule went about their business.

"Ah, Sorcerer, I see that you're being waited upon by a large group of women again."

"Ah, it's Master Aur!"

"Oh, Lord. ...The new trap is complete. Take a look next time."

As they walked down the streets, a variety of races came up to Aur to talk to him. Dwarves, fairies, cyclops. Any who have the necessary intelligence and skills useful to the dungeon are allowed to live in this place.

Kobolds busily carried building materials up and down the streets, the small figures of gnomes and hammer-wielding giants could be heard bartering angrily, a small pixie and a fairy maiden nymph were in a corner, chatting away merrily. It was a demi-human village if there ever was one.

"That's impressive, this dungeon has a town both above and underground."

"A kuduk like you will be quickly accepted down here."

"I'm going to live here too?"

"...no, you will live over there."

Aur continued to lead the group on down a large street and opened the door at the far end. The fourth floor was shaped like a donut, with large roads spreading outwards like radial rays, and side roads running concentrically. And in the center of that donut, was a room with stairs leading to the fifth floor.

One reason that the path to the fifth floor is so easily found, is to be able to protect the residents of the fourth floor in the unlikely event of an intrusion. Every one of them is a warrior capable of fighting, but more than that, they were brought to live here because of their skill in smithing and sorcery. It would be a waste to have them lose their lives fighting an enemy strong enough to reach this depth.

"Welcome back, Aur."

They found Yunis waiting for them in the room leading to the fifth floor. If an intruder were to enter into here, Yunis and Ellen were to engage them in full force. Anyone getting past them would mean reaching the extent of Aur's dungeon.

"You've done well in my absence."

Aur thanked Yunis and handed the talisman to Faro.

"You will need the talisman in order to travel to the fifth floor below. Do not lose it."

Aur watched as Faro nodded and put the talisman away inside of her clothes, before opening a hidden door to a staircase leading to the fifth floor. After descending the long flight of steps and passing the barrier with the talisman, they reach the area formerly known as the [residential area] that Aur and his lovers lived in. The fifth floor.

"Thank you for your work today. You can all return to your rooms."

Upon hearing this, Lilu and the others stared at him without moving. Aur sighed and added.

"You'll have your rewards tonight. Rest your bodies well, and cleanse yourselves."

And at that, the expressions on the ladies' faces turned to that of delight and they scattered about in the directions of the bedrooms, bathrooms and the dining halls as they fancied.

"Well then, let's continue."

Aur turned back to face Faro, and they walked side-by-side down the road.

Near the entrance were the quarters of Yunis and the others with fighting abilities, which allowed them to quickly respond when needed. And descending southward lead to the central plaza. The fountain constructed in the center of the plaza provided a constant stream of fresh water from an underground vein, which was often used for drinking water or to lightly wash one's face.

Roads stretched out from the central plaza in all four directions. Towards the eastern side was the cattle shed, Elf quarters and the bathhouse. While the cattle shed had been expanded repeatedly, ultimately, only regular cattle were reared here, and magical beasts were all sent to the third floor.

Cows, horses, sheep, chickens, and goats were reared in the shed, which allowed for the acquisition of fresh eggs and milk whenever needed. Mio would take Imp underlings with her to help take care of the livestock in the morning and then go play with the beasts in the evening. Recently, the Elf's have also started to help her in their free time.

Going west from the central plaza leads to the cookery and dining hall. The sacrifice maidens live in rooms here under the supervision of Spina. Every day they make meals, clean the dungeons, put away the dishes and sometimes service Aur. The labor is quite demanding, but they are allowed a small salary, and while they are not permitted to leave, they may request purchases be made within their means. And they are mostly satisfied with the arrangement.

To the south is Aur and Lilu's rooms as well as the room for summoning. There are multiple layers of magical protection stretched around the summoning room, so that in the rare event of a hero forcing his way inside, there would still be enough time to prepare.

The dungeon core lies directly below the central plaza, enshrined in a room that is reached by descending the fountain. While connected to the dungeon, it would be no easy task to enter due to the current of the water. Additionally, the water current from the underground veins were calculated to be able to smoothly carry magical power. Of course, no one but Aur knows of this location.

"...it's amazing."

Faro said, struck by wonderment after having seen the entirety of the dungeon. It was not an unusual thing in itself for dragons and sorcerers to

utilize caverns and lava tunnels to create dungeons.

But to dig one up from scratch at this scale, with an entire city underneath as well, was something that even Faro who was a seasoned adventurer, had never seen before.

"Yes. I'm satisfied. Having seen such a grand dungeon, I will have no regrets. ...Do with me as you wish."

"Good. Now follow me."

Aur said, and began walking towards the northern path. Faro followed after him with the look of someone headed to an execution platform.

Part 6

"Take off your clothes and lie down on the bed."

Aur ordered after she had cleansed her body with a damp towel, she took off her clothes with a meek expression, then lied down on the bed and closed her eyes.

Faro had the low stature of a child, but when shed of clothing, her body was that of a fully ripe woman. It would be more accurate to say that she resembled a human woman that had been miniaturized. Her body had curves, her stomach was tight and her breasts were reasonably large.

Aur gazed at her for a while, before removing his own robe and bringing his fingers towards her tightly closed inner thighs. At that moment, Faro opened her eyes and sat up; she stared at Aur.

"Wa, wait, wait, wait! Why are you touching me there!?"

"That's a strange thing to ask...It is you that will be in pain if it is not wet."

"Wet..."

Faro became silent upon hearing this unexpected answer; she finally understood what Aur was trying to do.

"You, you aren't going to put a curse on me, to make me like a doll that will do anything you say!?"

"I will put a spell on you so that you cannot resist, but I have no intention of taking away your will. If I did such a thing, your wit and skills would also be lost. Why did you think I had you remove your clothing?"

"I thought you were going to carve the magical runes directly into my skin...I mean, uh, why are you doing this?"

"You ask very strange questions. It is obviously because I want to."

While it is also more effective to have the spell flow into the womb, that was the main reason.

"...Aur, so you're a pervert?"

Faro said as she suddenly stood up and looked at Aur's member.

"What?"

"All human males said that only perverts were aroused by someone like me, and they never gave me a second look."

Aur's face hardened at Faro's words.

"...I'm not a pervert. I just have a slightly wider playing field."

"Ah, now that I think of it, you were even doing it with that Harpy. ...Can I touch it?"

Faro didn't wait for a reply and took Aur's member in her hand.

"It feels strange to the touch. It's soft yet, hard...and it's hot."

"Is it that different from male hobbits?"

It was not the first time he had met a hobbit, however, his knowledge didn't extend to that part of the males. Aur had to ask if there was that much of a difference.

"Maybe? It's my first time seeing one."

Faro shook her head to the side and replied nonchalantly.

"I left home when I was 19, I haven't met another hobbit in the 15 years since I left, and humans and elves never looked at me like that. This is my first time being bedded and seduced. Does that make you happy?"

"...I wouldn't call this seduction."

To a human, 34 is an age bordering on middle age, but the hobbit lifespan is little longer than humans. They reach adulthood at 33 and are considered middle-aged when they turn 50, 19 would be the equivalent of 10 for a human. So even at 34, she had just entered adulthood.

"Hmmm. Well, it doesn't matter. May I lick it?"

Once again, Faro did not wait for an answer and began to lick the length of Aur's penis. Twice, thrice; she took stock of it, then opened her mouth wide to envelope the whole head with her mouth.

"Fe...irf faffe..."

"Don't talk with a full mouth."

"...weird taste. It's salty, and bitter."

Faro said as she pulled her mouth away.

"This thing will emit semen if you make it feel good, will it not?"

"Yes. One of these days, I will teach you to make that happen with your mouth. But today..."

Before Aur could finish, Faro put Aur's member into her mouth once again. Her eyes looked up to see his expression, her tongue lapped, she rubbed and stroked him with her hands.

"Hyohyfoo...fenfufuenfiu."

"I can't understand...what you are saying."

As Faro talked with her mouth full, her tongue pressed against him; Aur moved ever so slightly. Faro did not miss it, her eyes thinned into a smile.

"Ferefoa...fefufuhifa?"

Faro watched Aur's reactions as she lapped, rubbed, gripped and petted Aur's penis. No one would ever say that Aur had an expressive face, but the sharp bandit did not let anything escape her notice.

"Ku...."

"Mmph. So, this feels good."

Faro laughed salaciously as she licked the frenulum. Her small hand rubbed Aur's penis up and down and with the other hand, she softly petted the sacks full of sperm. Her instincts were unbelievable for a virgin.

"How about this..."

Faro traced her tongue along Aur's shaft, then she gobbled the rest of his glans into her mouth. Without stopping, she began to suck the tip, hard, the sounds of suction were loud; her saliva mingling. Aur's hands held Faro's head down, his hips pushed into her.

"I'm coming...swallow it...!"

Faro drank the cloudy liquid that spewed into her mouth with a loud, throaty gulp. She contained all of the overflowing liquid in her stomach, and as if wanting more, continued to suck at the tip of his penis, even drinking the last drops from the head.

"Heh... It's a weird taste, but it's not that bad."

Faro said and laughed while licking the remaining sperm on the corners of her mouth. While surprising, given their size, hobbits are known for being heavy eaters, eating as much as five full meals a day. On the other hand, they are apparently not very fussy about taste, the amount is always prioritized. It seems that Aur's seed was to her liking.

"I'll let your lower mouth drink a load as well."

"Yes."

As Aur put his hand on Faro's thigh, she casually opened both of her legs.

"...I would have thought a virgin would be more likely to struggle a little."

While he took no special pleasure in toying with an unwilling woman, there was mild exasperation in Aur's voice.

"Hmmm. I won't say that there is none...but more importantly, I am curious to know how it feels like."

Faro's eyes shone with the same fiery light of curiosity as the time when she requested a tour of the dungeon.

"In that case, I will teach you what it is like."

Aur pushed Faro down on top of the bed and violently penetrated her where she was not even wet.

"Gyah...!! Oooowww!! Ow, owowowoowow!"

Faro let out a cry. Aur's beastly manhood forced its way into her small frame, fresh, deflowered blood ran through the cracks. Tears fell from Faro's eyes as the burning pain reached her gut.

"It hurts, Aur, it hurts! Stop!!"

"Isn't this what you wanted to know? How is it, the pain of losing your purity?"

"Who cares about purity? It simply hurts! ...ggg..gaaaaa!"

Even a slight back and forth movement from Aur sent a piercing pain through Faro's body; she screamed. But even then, Faro was so tight that Aur wasn't even able to thrust back and forth much.

"I haven't even got half of it in yet. You have to receive the whole thing."

"I can't!! It'll tear, I'll die!"

Aur put his arms under Faro's underarms and picked her whole body up as she screamed.

"Don't worry. If you do die, I'll have you resurrected in the church on the surface."

And in that sitting position, Aur let go with his hands and in an instant, dropped Faro so her hips met his.

"———!!"

Faro let out a soundless scream from the sheer pain and shock. Aur ignored her, he repeated the movement of picking her up and dropping her, piercing, deeply.

She lost the strength to cry out, and when her body grew limp, Aur released his seed into her and cast a spell of submission. He then cast a restoration spell and healed her wounds. While still connected, Faro dazedly opened her eyes. Apparently, she had fainted.

"How was the pain of being deflowered?"

"...Horrible. I really thought that I was going to die..."

Faro said, annoyed.

"But, it doesn't hurt anymore."

"Mmm...now that you mention it..."

Aur's member was still deeply implanted into Faro. That part that would have been easily torn again after healing, was accommodating Aur in a painless, firm

grip.

"It's because I healed you while it was deep inside, stretching it. Your vagina is now completely reshaped to fit my penis. All that pain, you are unlikely to ever forget it. A pain so strong it's carved into your soul and your flesh; it will be like a spell that binds your consciousness to my will, the evidence that you are my property."

A chill went up Faro's spine at Aur's one-sided declaration of ownership.

"That's, severe."

However, perhaps it wasn't so bad. This master, he was able to show Faro a world that she could not have seen or known on her own.

Perhaps he could show her a sight that no human...no, none that live on the surface, have ever seen.

The hobbit girl's heart leaped at the thought, that sight that spreads below the precipice. She smiled.

Chapter 13.5: Dungeon Commentary

Number of Floors: 5 dungeon floors

Miasma: 55

Notoriety: 60

Saved up Magic: 40 (Units: 10,000/day)

Magic Consumption: 14 (Units: 10,000/day)

New Facilities:

Dungeon Core LV 4

The dungeon core has grown to the size of 1 large floor. It can store up to 50 million Magic. Furthermore, when in danger of destruction from an attack, it will automatically utilize its internal Magic to shrink and regenerate.

Village

A village that seemingly sprung up near the entrance out of nowhere.

There are rows of shops that offer substantial support, making it a permanent station for some adventurers.

As a result, the level of Miasma has increased greatly. It has also become a fixed source of income.

Floor 2: Direct Entrance

A pit leading directly down into the second floor. It attracts wyverns and other aerial beasts.

Because it is virtually impossible for adventurers to invade from here, the existence of the pit has no effect on the defensive capability of the dungeon.

Spring of Regeneration

A spring that naturally occurs within drifts of Magic. While there are times where it is an aid to adventurers, it also heals monsters and has caused adventurers to overestimate their own strength and lose their lives in the process; ultimately, it enhances defenses.

Mysterious Labyrinth

A labyrinth that changes shape every time you enter due to dungeon leeches

and kobolds. It prevents careless traversing and confuses invaders.

Traps LV 1

Primitive traps made by kobolds and goblins. That being said, it is incredibly difficult to avoid them in the dark labyrinth where your view is often obstructed. The traps often prove to be fatal when inexperienced invaders are fleeing from enemies.

Traps LV2

Advanced trap set by Aur that were developed by dwarves. Each is equipped with enough destructive force to deal a lethal blow. On top of that, they are difficult to detect even for a seasoned bandit.

Demon Lord Room

A hall at the end of the third floor. Here Logan will impersonate the Demon Lord and take on any who enter. Should he be defeated, a magical teleportation square for your return will appear. However, this magical square is a trap. Carelessly stepping into it will teleport you high into the sky, giving you a taste of an aerial adventure.

Residential Area

The sector in which Aur, his lovers, and collaborators live. Miasma is removed through a barrier and it exudes a sense of order and cleanliness.

New War Potential:

Wyvern

War potential: 6

Low ranking dragons that have just two legs and a pair of wings, but no arms. Instead of breathing fire, they are equipped with a poisonous tail and have the fighting ability that is fitting for the name of dragon, in spite of being a lower rank. Their intelligence is not very high, being similar to that of a smart dog.

Gnome (Merchant)

War potential: 5

Maximum Magical Capacity: 1.5

Big breasted loli merchant. She cannot use any weapons or magic but has the bare minimum fighting ability through the use of charms. However, she suffers a substantial financial loss every time she defeats an enemy. She descended

from parents that were slaves and had her ass tapped while she was still a virgin. But she was able to make money through her gift of appraising anything, the “Eye of Truth” and was able to escape her situation by buying her freedom.

Keith

War potential: 8

A suspicious looking bandit who works as a guide in Aur’s Town. While he looks continually suspect, he is generally well-meaning and serious about his work. He is a rare person that in spite of living in an adventurer’s town, rarely explores the dungeons and also lack a steady job. He was not joking when Aur asked him “Introduce me to a talented thief” and he suggested himself, for he did have abilities that could be called first-rate. However, Aur rejected him on the grounds that he was male.

Faro

War potential: 6

Maximum Magical Capacity: 1

A hobbit bandit with first-rate skills. She is low on pure fighting ability but outstrips Keith with the deftness of her fingers and the way she deals with traps through observation. While her observational skills are high, her ability to infer any conclusions from it is low, which is her only fault.

[Teacher]

War potential: 3?

A ghost who was once known as Georg. He haunts a room in the labyrinth and attacks anyone who steps foot into it. However, if you cut him with a sword made of a soul then he will lose a degree of strength. However, he will not feel any pain and it is still difficult to deal a fatal blow. He is quite adept with a sword and has become a practice partner for adventurers, and they have started to call him [Teacher].

Dungeon worm

War potential: 4

A creature resembling a giant earthworm. Because it mainly subsists on magic, it will eat soil from the dungeon which contains high volumes of magic and then excrete it, changing the shape of the dungeon, making it a very troublesome beast. On top of that, sorcerers apparently resemble a delicacy to them, and

they will often perform an attack where they suddenly burst from walls, floors or ceilings and eat sorcerers before disappearing back into the wall. In order to prevent this, adventures will generally protect sorcerers by putting them between bandits or monks in a defensive formation.

Gelatinous Cube

War potential: 5

A square-shaped slime that will swallow up anything. Because they are colorless and transparent, people may not notice if they are filling up an entire room and will accidentally walk into them. If little time has passed since the last victim, there may still be remnants of metal weaponry and bones floating that were difficult to dissolve, which would make discovery slightly easier. Fire is the only way to deal with them. However, because their wounds immediately fill up again, it is incredibly difficult to kill them completely.

Lizardmen

War potential: 5

2-meter humanoids that resemble an upright lizard. Contrary to appearances, their intelligence is equal to that of humans and they are a generally mild-mannered and simple race. It is possible to negotiate with them if you can communicate. Nearly all of their race are skilled fighters that are equipped with armor, shields, and swords.

Hag

War potential: 4

A monster that has the appearance of an old woman. They resemble humans at a glance, and while they can speak in human tongues, it is incredibly rare for one to survive through negotiation. Human flesh is a delicacy to them, and they prefer to eat the flesh carved off of a person after they have tricked them with deceitful words and then paralyzed them with a spell. On the other hand, their head-on fighting abilities are not high, and while they do display surprising agility for looking like an old woman, they do not pose much of a threat to a seasoned adventurer.

Centaur

War potential: 5

A race with the upper body of a human and the lower body of a horse. While

they have the intelligence to match humans and can communicate with them, they are incredibly violent and talks tend to turn sour, making negotiation difficult. If there are women in your party, it is best to either flee or choose to fight without hesitation. More than their temper, they are known for being a gathering of lecherous men and there is a high probability of being raped if you let your guard down. Furthermore, each of them is skilled with the bow and can also handle a club, making them a dangerous foe to have to face.

Harpy

War potential: 3

A monster with the sweet face and body of a girl and the wings and feet of a bird. While they have the face of a human, their intelligence is low, making conversation difficult. They are very covetous and will steal any unattended belongings that contain food. Their fighting ability is not very high, so they avoid directly attacking targets and will instead throw rocks from outside of your reach, making it difficult to defeat them. It is best to throw them some food and then flee while they swarm towards it.

Cave giant

War potential: 5

A giant that lives in caves. It reaches 3.5 meters in stature and is equipped with a ragged cloth and a club. True to appearances, their intelligence is quite low, but the overall toughness and blows that their huge forms are capable of are awe-inspiring. Their personalities are also incredibly violent, and they are likely to attack you unless they have a very full stomach. It is best to deal with them with psychological magic or to escape into a narrow passage.

Mermaid

War potential: 4

A type of sprite that has the upper half of a beautiful woman and the lower half of a fish. They are the easiest to communicate with among the creatures in the labyrinth, and will generally not antagonize you unless attacked first. However, their entire bodies have a high concentration of Magic, which is highly valuable and makes them a ceaseless target for adventurers. Be warned that a mermaid that has experienced assault first-hand or witnessed a friend being attacked in the past, may attack you even without provocation.

Mio(Beast trainer LV20)

War potential: 0

Maximum Magical Capacity: 0.1

As a result of having to take care of numerous beasts, Mio can now control a large variety of them as if they were her own limbs. She is like a rare character you occasionally encounter on the third floor. While she has no fighting ability herself, she is able to raise the war potential of every beast by 1 point. Because she always has several beasts tagging along with her that she can freely control, her war potential is about 7 to 8.

The Present Dungeon

Due to a large number of adventurers entering, the Miasma has strengthened significantly. It's changed to a denseness that causes the spirits of the dead to naturally transform into evil spirits by themselves. Furthermore, the ecosystem within the labyrinth is now well established, forming a pyramid: corpse > rats and bugs > goblins > other monsters and giants > social demi-humans. At this point, all defensive facilities are mostly complete, making the defenses of Aur's labyrinth almost impregnable. It would require more than a few Hero class individuals to break in. His notoriety has grown significantly; to the degree that any who are aware of recent rumors would know his name. Minstrels who have turned his exploits into songs have started to appear here and there.

Chapter 14: Let's Give the Hero a Cruel Death

Part 1

"Your majesty. There is something I would like to bring to your attention."

The wizened man said as he knelt. He appeared to be over 60. His hair was completely white and he wore a paranoid expression behind his glasses. He was Toscan, the King's faithful prime minister.

"You have my ear."

The other was a man with red hair man, partially white, who wore a luxurious red gown. He was tall, reaching 6 feet and a half (approximately 2 meters) and had a muscular physique. His ample beard stretched down like fire, where it decorated his chest as if a lion's mane. While the large man was in his mid-fifties, he had the force of vitality that made him seem 10 years younger.

His name was Wolfdiel Sevrán Ru Ela Grandiera I. The king of the powerful country of Grandiera himself.

"I have brought it up before, but it is about [Demon Lord Aur], who subjugated the kingdom of Figuria."

"I thought that I told you that such a diminutive country isn't worth my attention."

Wolf moved a chess piece forward. There was no opponent. It was a chess composition...in other words, a chess problem.

"But...there was a report that someone resembling Yunis was seen in his party."

"...Oh?"

Without stopping, Wolf continued to move the chess pieces.

"That troublesome girl. So she ended up in such a place after running out on

her own, did she."

"What will you do?"

Wolf's hand stopped as he pondered on this. Then he placed the white pawn diagonally in front of the black king.

"Bring her back."

There was nowhere for the black king to run.

"If she resists, you may kill her."

The king had no choice but to take the pawn; Wolf crushed it with the white knight, shattering it into dust..

"It is said that this Lafenice continent has 12 small and large countries in all."

Aur explained as he drew the lines of the simple map with chalk. In front of him, the usual faces of Lilu, Yunis, Spina, and Ellen sat at the table, listening to his instructions.

The only thing different was that Mary, who had no intention of listening in the first place, had her face buried in the table and Mio was sitting towards the back, looking bored.

"The kingdom of Figuria...well, it has recently come to be known as the Demon Country or the Demon Lord's Country. This country is located around here."

Aur drew a small circle towards the center, slightly to the west of the continent.

"To the south is the great country, Grandiera. This mighty country has an order of knights commanded by Wolf, the Hero King. In terms of military strength, they are peerless on this continent. They were not originally so vast a country, but they quickly swallowed up their neighbors, reaching their great size in a very short amount of time."

Aur circled the lower half of the continent as if tracing it. The size was nearly 10 times larger than Figuria.

"To the north is the religious state, Lafenice. You might call them the leading

country of this continent. A country with traditions that go back over a thousand years. Their current leader is Saint Meria. They have long maintained neutrality and are never the first to attack, however, they will show no mercy once provoked. As a few countries have already learned. Not even Grandiera would raise a finger against them."

Aur circled the top half of the continent. Now, most of the spaces in the continent had been filled.

"Other notable countries are Ravana, with its Dragon Knights to the east, and Alfheim, the home of the white elves. There are other countries, but they are small and share no borders with us, so we may disregard them."

Aur drew even more circles in the empty spaces and put the chalk down.

"First, we must under no circumstances, antagonize Lafenice. They will leave us alone as long as we do not attack them, but they will annihilate if they should conclude that we are hostile. Nothing will remain of us when they are done."

"But, Grandiera is superior to them in terms of their military, are they not?"

Aur nodded at Yunis' question.

"[Military,]yes. But the Saint of Lafenice is not some self-styled saint. She is literally a messenger of God, servant of the angels. Antagonizing Lafenice would be the same thing as antagonizing the heavens."

"But didn't God die during the war in the age of gods?"

"Indeed. But even if their boss has died, those pesky angels are still in heaven. Just as we demons have not gone extinct."

Logan answered with a heavy reply to Lilu's question.

"Come to think of it, didn't you experience the Shinma War...?"

"Yes. Though I was on the bottom rung, so it's nothing to be proud of."

That is the reason that a demon as powerful as Logan is called a [low rank]. Thousands of years ago, in a time known as the age of gods. Numerous demons lead by the legendary Madouou, waged a war against the God who lived in heaven. The Shinma War. In that war, Logan was at the minimum fighting force level.

"Still, you know just what it means to get on the wrong side of heaven."

"Well, it's not that different than making every demon your enemy. Most of the superior fellows up there were destroyed as well. There won't be a Shinmai War ever again, though, with our current strength, we couldn't beat them even if they were blindfolded."

"Yeah, it's not possible."

Yunis flatly agreed. Her combat abilities were said to be off the charts, but who could say if she would win against two enemies that were each as powerful as Logan. If there were three, then there would be no hope.

"So with that said, the real threat is Grandiera. They have already annexed many countries, and they actively wage war against others. There is a strong likelihood that they will assault us without provocation."

"My father does love to wage war..."

Yunis muttered as she scratched her head.

"I left home because I hated it. I'm done with being a tool of war. The killing of innocents for your own ambition, treating them ill, colonizing them, I couldn't bear it."

Yunis declared decisively and looked towards Aur.

"But you're different, Aur? Even if you do conquer other countries, you look after the people. You don't mistreat them or make them your slaves. You serve responsibly as a king."

"Why, of course."

While he nodded self-righteously, Aur was not motivated by any sense of morality. It was in fact, merely his mistrust of humans.

It was necessary for Aur to firmly care for the countries in order to expand them and to remove the seeds of rebellion. It was either that or to utterly destroy enemy countries and increase your own countries population, as Wolf did.

Because Aur did not believe in humans, he chose the method which would decrease the risk of rebellion. It would mean fewer rebellions if he ruled over a

diverse group of people
instead of allowing a united race to multiply.

"So, if working under you means that we can stop him, I am even willing to fight my father."

"You would kill your own blood with your hands?"

Yunis' expression became somewhat troubled by Aur's words.

"...I'm prepared to do it; is what I would like to say, but...I'm sorry, I may not be able to."

"I see. Well, I won't force..."

"It's not that."

Yunis cut off Aur's words and shook her head.

"Simply, I won't be able to defeat him. Because my father is much stronger than I am."

Part 2

The Hero King, Wolfdiel. The Wolf King, the Lion King, King Red Beard; a great king known by many names and there are none on this continent that do not know his name.

He cut down the giant who abducted the princess with just his sword, and as a young commoner, he was able to rise to the king's seat and expand the borders of the kingdom in no time.

His feats of slaying countless demons and evil spirits have been immortalized through songs and carried by minstrels throughout the lands. His courage was praised as befitting a Hero by his allies, and his enemies would, in turn, fear him as a living God of Death.

However, Aur did not particularly fear Wolf. His country had grown too large. Should it come to a war, the deciding factor for victory would be their military and strategy. Individual heroic strength would count for nothing.

Besides, Heroes that lived long lives were scarce throughout history, regardless of place. Many of them died in their mid-twenties, few would reach the age of 30. Wolf may be considered an outlier, having reached the old age of 50, however, he would not have much time left.

Perhaps he recognized this danger himself, for Wolf would rarely appear on the battlefield these days, he instead endured the pains of domestic affairs. A few years later and he was likely to die on his own. With the use of Yunis, victory may come surprisingly easily. Of course, Aur had no intention of making such a gamble, but patricide was an all too common end for a Hero.

But the real problem was the Order of Knights, known for being the mightiest on the continent. There was no comparison with the Kingdom of Figuria's military in quality or quantity when it came to the proficiency of their infantry and sorcerers. Of course, Aur did not put any faith in human soldiers to begin with.

If that was all it took to win, Figuria would have become a great country already. Aur's strengths lay in the dungeon and the massive amount of Magic

that was stored there. If he wanted to bury his enemies, he would have to let them live for now.

So Aur bided his time, planning; all the while expanding his dungeon.

It was one week before he would receive news of the declaration of war.

"Give me a status report."

The palace's Great Assembly Room.

Aur bluntly ordered to the line of ministers.

"Yes. Grandiera has declared war. A messenger arrived while Your Majesty was absent, I met with him as your representative. The enemy has designated the Blancheau Planes to the south as the site of the battle."

The Minister of Defense answered.

"And?"

"...and, Your Majesty?"

The minister returned a dubious expression at Aur's command for him to continue.

"How many are there. Where are they currently stationed? How many men can we immediately mobilize? Where is the breakdown? What are the odds of us winning? Those are the sort of things I am asking."

"Uh...we are currently investigating. I thought it would be best to inform you first and to gather everyone together and..."

The minister was dripping with sweat as Aur glared at him. This talk of investigating was a lie. It was Cass who controlled the majority of the countries military. He understood well that the ministers were a worthless crowd who could only bark vague orders from up high.

"Gather? How can you shamelessly stand there after having called me for this?"

The voice seemed to echo from the earth, the ministers shuddered visibly.

"Listen. I have no interest in whether you live or die. It is up to you whether you wish to get fat or die of starvation. ...However, it is a different story when

you block my path. The people, the soldiers, everyone is here to serve me. I will spare no mercy for my enemies. ...If thou understands that, hurry and finish this [investigation!]."

"Ye...yes!"

The ministers all jumped to their feet, bowed and left the room

This decaying land will eventually deteriorate. But that is fine. While he was the king, Aur was not attached to Figuria, and he had no intention of seeing it prosper. Without being killed or allowed to thrive, it would feed the dungeons, he would let it fall, slowly, so that it would never be a real threat.

"Ahahahahha, he said thou!"

"You laugh too much."

Now only the hard-faced Aur and Lilu, who held her sides with laughter, remained.

"I've told you before. The point is more easily made like that."

"But, you said thou...heheh."

"Enough of that, just make your report."

Aur urged Lilu, who could not stop laughing and continued to hide her mouth with her hands and smirk.

"Alright, alright. Here is it."

Lilu handed over the summarized report. It contained written details on the enemy formation, numbers and the number of beasts that would be part of the fighting force *etc.*

"...That's less than I thought."

Aur's face expressed distrust upon seeing the numbers. The enemy was 5,000 in all. It exceeded the number of soldiers that he could prepare, but not by an incredible margin. Grandiera could surely have gathered 10 times this number.

"Are they underestimating us?"

"...that might be it."

Aur nodded at Lilu's noncommittal reply.

"Wha, no, really?"

Lilu asked, in spite of suggesting it herself.

"To be honest, I cannot think of another possible reason."

"Um, you know, to give us a false sense of security and then ambush us."

That too was something that Aur had considered, but it was not very likely.

"Schemes and sneak attacks are for the weak. You may defeat stronger foes if you succeed, but the loss will be great should you fail. There is little reason for the mighty Grandiera to employ such a method. It would mean far less damage for them to rely on numbers and brute force."

"Hmm, then...um, it costs money to march because the soldiers will become hungry, right? Perhaps it is to save money?"

Lilu said after furrowing her brows and thinking hard on the matter.

"It is true that having the soldiers march would have an enormous cost. ...but, it would be inversely proportional to the number of casualties. How much money and time do you think it takes to raise one soldier? A march would not compare to that..."

"Hmph! How would a succubus know anything about that!"

Lilu roared and was soon in a fit of rage. Indeed, Aur did not have strong expectations for her to begin with, but the succubus did have an odd, very serious side to her.

"So be it then. If anything, it would be better for them to underestimate us when they attack. And if they resort to any kind of trickery, we have only to crush it."

Aur's robe flapped as he cast a spell. In an instant, the two forms vanished and were teleported into the dungeon.

Part 3

Soldiers are generally split into five different categories.

First, the most common type is the infantry. They carry shields and fight with spears or swords. They halt enemy attacks and are the cornerstones of defense; preventing the enemy from advancing. There are two types: the light infantry with their thinner armor that is suited for mobility, and the heavy infantry with their impregnable, heavy armor. Figuria has a larger number of light infantry and Grandiera has a larger number of heavy infantry.

The next most common are archers. If the infantry are cornerstones of the defense, then archers are the cornerstones of offense. They are capable of killing enemies at a long range with longbows and crossbows. Longbows are useful for rapid firing, but require skills that can be difficult to attain, while crossbows are easier to learn to use, they take longer to load. Crossbows are also difficult to make and can break easily, making them difficult to acquire in large numbers.

The next most common is the cavalry. The star players of the battlefield. It is said that the result of any war depends on how the cavalry are utilized. They boast incredible mobility and force, that can scatter the infantry in no time, and also slaughter archers and sorcerers.

Next are sorcerers. In truth, sorcerers are not considered as being very important on the battlefield. The reason for this is that magic attacks are inferior to bows. The range does not reach far enough and they cannot be fired in rapidity. And if they ever get close to the cavalry, they will be killed before they have a chance to try anything.

The reason that this type of soldier still exists in spite of this, is that magic is the only defense for siege class magic. In other words, they exist to repel the magic of the enemies' sorcerers.

Lastly...there is a category of soldiers that do not participate in the fighting directly. Transport soldiers carry food and equipment, medics heal the wounded, engineers construct large weapons *etc.*

The infantry protects archers and sorcerers while the cavalry contains and confuses the enemy. Once the enemy is in disarray, the infantry will push forward and the archers will annihilate the rest. That is the general flow of war.

Five days since the declaration of war.

Aur and the army of Grandiera were facing off at the Blancheau Planes.

As the defending side, Aur's army had a horizontal line of infantry with the ends of the line pointing forward towards the enemy, what you would call the [Crane Wings Formation]. Archers and sorcerers would support from the rear. It was a defensive formation that was well suited to surrounding and massacring enemy troops that were charging forward to attack.

The opposing Grandiera army took the [Fish Scale Formation], wherein units of several hundred would line up in the shape of triangles. Unlike the Crane Wing, they would concentrate their force at a single point and break into the enemy with a single blow.

Grandiera had a large, experienced cavalry, and they were apparently attempting a quick victory by breaking the center of the Crane Wing and defeating the leader.

Once the head has been removed or thirty percent of the fighting force has been killed, armies will tend to lose their ability to function, and will collapse.

"They are still so few..."

Aur muttered as he used magic to ask enquire about the state of the enemy troops. The enemies cavalry were around 400. Two Fish Scales composed of 200 knights each. While it was still much larger than the cavalry of 100 that Aur had, it was much less than he had anticipated. They could have easily brought over 1,000 knights.

"But, they do not seem to be underestimating us either."

Said Ellen, who was glaring at the enemy troops in person.

"They are just out of range from our archers. Their magic barriers are also fairly thick. Our arrows will not be able to penetrate something like that."

"So they have analyzed what bringing the fight to Figuria Castle would mean.

"

"That is likely."

Ellen nodded. The rain of arrows fired from the wyvern riding Ellen was one of Aur's trump cards, but it was not so strong a weapon as to be impossible to deal with once it was known. He would need to decrease the enemy's sorcerers by at least a half for her to be effective.

"Ambushing them with teleportation will also be impossible. There is an anti-teleportation magic barrier surrounding the entire enemy formation. We may be able to attack from the rear, if they charged forward, but their cavalry will still break through."

Ogres and orcs are no match for the speed of horses. Even if they could take their rear, the enemy would escape before they could make an attack.

"So, we will have to stop the enemies cavalry with our infantry. ...their cavalry is 400 in numbers, our infantry is 1,600. I wonder if we can really hold them with just... four times their number?"

"It's impossible. There is too big a gap in terms of competence."

Aur replied flatly to Yunis, who wore an uncommon expression of nervousness.

"What!"

"Don't worry. I have a plan."

Aur replied as Yunis' eyes widened in surprise.

And then, the war began.

Grandiera's cavalry shot through the planes like arrows. In spite of the horses being covered in armor and carrying knights also covered in armor, their speed was not much different from a bare horse.

Indeed, they resembled huge, iron cannonballs. They shrugged off the rain arrows and thrust forward into the battlefield. They never broke formation or attacked their flanks. They intended to rely on speed and weight in order to break into the other side's formation.

Figuria's soldiers raised their shields to engage them, they brandished their spears while their teeth chattered in fear. Could such thin spears really stop the oncoming rush of solid steel? Can such thin shields protect them? Each of them imagined the sight of them being kicked, trodden over and crushed into pieces by the cavalry mounts.

"Do not be afraid!"

At that moment, the Demon Lord's resounding voice echoed from their backs.

"Who do you think is protecting your backs? The Demon Lord who is master of one thousand sorceries and ten thousand beasts. Whether they are covered in armor or carry a spear, they are all just children of men. Would you fear them more than a demon from hell?"

While his voice was not loud, it mysteriously carried to every corner of the formation.

"Now, my vanguard. Raise your chins and gird your loins! And tear those fools to shreds!"

"OooooooooOooooooooOOooooooooOooooo!!"

The soldiers all raised their voices in unison. Their hearts, once frozen with fright, rose and filled with bloodlust and madness. Their eyes shone brightly and they held their spears ready as they glared at the cavalry of Grandiera.

"OOOoo!"

"Why are you under it too?"

Aur smacked the back of Yunis' head.

"Uh, wha?"

Yunis dumbfoundedly looked at her surroundings, her eyes blinking.

"I cast a berserker spell on the soldiers. It takes away their fear and raises their will to fight, but it also lowers their defenses."

That being said, it was still preferable to cowering in fear. And it was also the first step in what would unfold next.

"...good, now is the time. [Do it, Spina!]"

Aur used magic to send Spina the signal as she waited in the dungeon. A deafening sound echoed, and half of the cavalry on the battlefield was covered in a cloud of dust.

"The time is now! My men, go and surround the enemy!"

Aur's command boomed, and his infantry immediately fell on the enemy cavalry. However, the enemy was formidable and quickly recovered their position after faltering a moment from the dust. They calmed their horses and instantly fell on the oncoming infantry.

However, it was only half of the cavalry that was able to do so.

"What the hell happened?"

"There is actually a part of the dungeon's first floor that stretches into this area. I had the kobolds dig a giant pitfall from underground."

This meant that the rear half of the Fish Scales fell into the dungeon by way of the pitfall. As they wore very heavy armor, most of the knights would have been instantly killed or suffered grave wounds, and even if they could move, they would quickly become feed for the monsters in the dungeon. The cavalry would be of no use in a narrow, ill-footed dungeon.

Even with half of their numbers gone, the knights continued their attempt to break through, passed the infantry. However, something was attacking them from the rear.

"And because it's connected to the dungeons, I, of course, had an ambush ready. While they may not be able to run as fast as the horses, it won't matter if our infantry can buy them even a few seconds..."

While the knights were halted by the rush of the infantry who no longer had any fear of death, they were attacked by hellhounds from their rear. These black hounds were the size of bulls, they incinerated the iron armor and bit into the necks of the horses, tearing the armor whole. The enemy were not accustomed to facing such beasts and while they hesitated, the infantry, who were under a berserker spell, paid the beasts no mind and fell upon the cavalry without a moment's delay.

"We can devour them."

The infantry in the front. The beasts in the back. Completely surrounded, the lifeline of the cavalry had been severed..

Part 4

By now anyone could see that the lives of Grandiera's cavalry were hanging by a thread.

Figuria's infantry was in front of them and they could not retreat with the pitfall blocking them from behind. The only way they could survive this situation was to force their way through the infantry, but the infantry towards the center formed a particularly thick layer, and even if they were considered as the weaker soldiers, breaking that line would not be easy.

Perhaps in an attempt to save the cavalry, Grandiera's infantry started to march forward, but it was apparent that they would not make it in time at that distance. However, there was something disconcerting about it all to Aur.

Even if the infantry did arrive, it would be impossible to save the cavalry within the chaos of the fighting. While it was unlikely that the commanding officer was King Wolf, it was unthinkable that an officer of Grandiera, who were known for their strength, would do such a thing.

It also seemed strange that their losses were so low. Regardless of the fact that he had succeeded in his surprise pincer movement, he had expected at least a few knights to break through. Yunis had been placed there to deal with them.

But the cavalry only moved about confusedly at the battle line and there was no sign of spears being thrown.

"...Spina! Go now and inspect the bodies of the cavalry!"

Aur sent the message through magic to Spina, who was supposed to be waiting on the first floor. After a moment, her surprisingly flustered voiced returned.

"Master...! They are dolls! These, are not the cavalry... They are dolls that have been painted silver!"

"All troops, fall back!"

As Aur shouted, the infantry started to drop like flies. It was not from arrows.

It was not magic either. It was some other projectile, the infantry continued to fall in succession.

"What the hell!?"

"My lord, it is slings. They are flinging rocks with slings."

Ellen said with a grim expression. A sling was a primitive weapon made of leather. A rock is placed in the pocket and it is swung by a string and shot through by centrifugal force.

"A sling? How is such a thing not stopped by the anti-arrow spell? At this distance..."

Aur realized it before he finished saying it, he grabbed Ellen towards him and drew the magic from her body. The atmosphere warped and shook, a rippling wave spread out with Aur in the center. Everything within the range of the waves would be recognized; a type of probing spell.

"This is....lead!"

Aur gnashed his teeth. According to the probe spell, there was nothing suspicious that held magic. [Nothing]. Everything in this world, regardless of what it is, contained a degree of magic. But there is just one exception, [lead].

This metal that is known as the iron that was abandoned by God, contains absolutely no magic and in turn, repels it. You cannot stop bullets made of lead with magic barriers.

If these were arrows with arrowheads created from lead, the arrows would have stopped at the shaft or fletching. But masses of lead would pass through without being affected at all. On top of that, they are heavier and stronger than stone. They would carry enough force to knock someone unconscious even if they were protected by steel armor.

The cavalry chased the infantry as they started their retreat. Not all of the cavalry were dummies. A tenth of their number was real cavalry, they had been commanding and controlling the horses that bore the dolls.

What was most fearful was the skill of the knights and warhorses to control the other mounts without riding them. And also their nerve to unconcernedly

use them as sacrificial decoys. Aur's ambush may have exceeded their calculations, but it had not been unexpected. After all, their decoys had served their purpose well.

"This is foolish...do they mean to attain victory by sacrificing so many of their cavalry?"

However, if things continued like this, his infantry would be annihilated. Quality aside, Aur would be taking much heavier losses in terms of numbers. His army was already fewer in numbers to begin with, he could not allow the losses to continue any further.

"[Mio. Do it.]"

Aur sent the message to Mio with magic. In an instant, the sky was covered by shadows. High in the sky flew wyverns, giant monster birds known as roc, griffins and other large monsters with magnificent abilities of flight. Each of them carried giant boulders in their claws.

Arrows and hurled stones can be easily protected against with the use of magic. But the large masses of boulders would not be so easy to stop. And as the boulders were thrown one after another, the enemies frontlines crumbled in the blink of an eye.

"Now, my cavalry, charge!"

At that moment, Aur brought out the cavalry that he had been saving up to this point. Some of the boulders that had been thrown landed in the pit instead of the enemy position, bridging the gap. Aur's cavalry crossed through and plunged into the enemy infantry.

While slings may be primitive weapons, they by no means compare unfavorably to bows in terms of force and range. But they did have two flaws.

First, they were difficult to use. It takes a lot more arduous training to use a sling properly than what is required for a bow.

The other is that you cannot fire in rapid succession. While not as bad as a crossbow, you cannot send stones flying in an instant.

In other words, the sling wielding infantry are not as proficient as soldiers that

wield swords, and the weapon was not suited for dealing with the onrush of cavalry. In an instant, Aur's 100 cavalries had trampled over the enemy's infantry and had even begun to fall on the archers and sorcerers.

With the loss of their rearguards support, the enemy's cavalry, who were few in numbers to begin with, lost their advantage and were surrounded by Aur's infantry before being torn to death by his beasts.

It seemed that the outcome was now clear. The enemy was sure to begin its retreat shortly. Aur sighed in relief, he sat back in the seat that had been set at his camp. However, it could not be called a complete victory. The boulder assault by the flying beasts was one of the trump cards that Aur had readied.

It could be used in an attack, as a defense, and during a siege, without much risk to your own army, all the while inflicting massive damage towards your enemies. But he would have preferred to not use it in this fight, if it was possible. Because once you've shown that hand, it would not be very difficult to take protective measures against it.

And the enemies countermeasures were inscrutable as ever. Aur's aim of domination meant that war with Grandiera was unavoidable. And so of course, Aur had thoroughly studied King Wolf.

King Wolf was known for being daring and bold, his style of warfare was straightforward and boisterous. He rarely relied on tactics or ambushes and always stood in the forefront, his style was supposed to be the cutting down of enemies with his military power.

Even if the king himself was not present on the frontlines, surely his subjects would continue to follow in his footsteps. It was not like him to hold back on his fighting force and aim for victory through strategy; it was just incomprehensible.

A monstrous sound of an explosion interrupted Aur's contemplations.

"...What is it!?"

He came back to himself and looked in the direction of the sound; there had been a giant explosion on the frontline and he could see several soldiers flying in the air.

"What...Is it an[Explosion]spell!? What are my sorcerers doing? Stop it with an anti-magic protection spell!"

"They, they are my lord! But, that thing is not magic!"

The messenger screamed.

Spells are cast with magic without exception. And so it should be possible to nullify any powerful spell if you have enough magic to interfere with it. That is what is called anti-magic protection.

But it cannot protect against an attack of equivalent force that does not rely on magic. While you may be able to protect against the magical sharpness of a legendary sword, you still cannot completely nullify a blunt blade. That is what is called defense magic. But...

"It's not magic, you say!? Don't be foolish, without a large weapon, how could they blow humans into the air like..."

"That is, from a [sword]..."

Yunis' nervous voice interrupted Aur's shouting.

"A sword...a sword is blowing those men into the sky....!?"

That is not something that was possible, even with the ridiculous strength of ogres and giants. It was certainly not possible for a human to accomplish.

So that meant, it wasn't human. This feat was by something of an entirely different nature.

"I didn't think that he would arrive so soon."

Yunis said in a quivering voice.

"Older brother..."

Part 5

[The Hero of Lead]Zaitlead. Described as a mighty warrior and a match for a thousand men, he is the son of King Wolf, and though he himself is a Hero without peer, his name is not very well known.

The reason for this is that unlike his father, he preferred to avoid warfare and instead focused on his position of hunting monsters in remote regions and the stamping out any civil disorder. There was also the [Curse of Lead] that had been cast on him.

What this meant was that he was not affected by magical spells of any sort, but neither could he cast them. While at a glance, being able to repel magic may sound useful, however, it was not only offensive magic that had no effect.

If he was wounded, not only healing magic, but elixirs would have no effect; he would not even be able to receive status reports through magic transmissions while on the battlefield. No matter how much miraculous power was infused in a legendary sword, it would turn into nothing more than a piece of steel in his hands, divine blessings also had no effect.

Yet, the curse was one that he had cast himself. He had discarded magic as a tool of the spineless, denying it. Stubbornly honest, he was said to outmatch his father the king in bravery, yet he continued to fight in remote regions where his name would not become well known.

While the troops on both sides drew back, he walked leisurely towards Aur's camp, the soldiers watched with bated breath. If Aur used all of his military force, he just might be able to win. But the losses would be enormous. Even if he won this battle, he would not be able to continue after that. Instead, Aur chose to handle it with the best of his best.

Zaitlead was a big man at 7 feet (nearly 200 cm) in stature. Lightly resting on his shoulder was a sword that would dwarf most great swords, a sword whose blade was as long as he was tall, he wore a thick breastplate, gauntlets and a full set of armor.

His arms were thick as trees, his craggy, rugged face did not much resemble

Yunis', but the hue of his red hair and emerald eyes were a perfect match to hers.

"You are the Demon Lord, Aur."

Zaitlead looked down at Aur and said in a low voice. It was a monotonous voice, with no emotion to be sensed.

"I am. And you must be Zaitlead, the Hero of Lead. It seems the stories of your strength were true."

Aur said. Zaitlead nodded without so much as a smirk.

"Yes. I am Zaitlead Raven Ru Ela Grandiera. I see that my sister has been enjoying your hospitality."

Zaitlead flatly introduced himself with his full name and then turned his gaze towards Yunis. She was holding her sword ready and her steady eyes were locked on Zaitlead. As a test, Aur tried to cast a curse on Zaitlead with his real name, but it had no effect at all. It was no lie that magic of any kind was impenetrable for him.

"We are going home, Yunis."

Said Zaitlead frankly, Yunis pointed her blade towards him.

"Older brother...I, cannot approve of what father is doing. Even if they are not our race, people are people, too..."

"Yunis."

Yunis' words were unusually polite as she made her case, but Zaitlead interjected.

"I have no interest in your plea. I received just one order. To [bring you back]. If you refuse, I will carry you by force."

"...that's, exactly what I hoped for!!"

Yunis' hand let out an explosion of flames. Zaitlead only slightly narrowed his eyes, otherwise, he did not move. As the flames touched him, they were not able to inflict a single burn on his flesh, and they went out in an instant.

However, at that moment when his vision was obscured by the flames, Yunis

had moved into his blind spot. With a speed that no ordinary person could follow, she swung her sword down towards Zaitleads shoulder.

The sound of metal rang loudly, Yunis' blade had been repelled. Without moving a single step, Zaitlead had blocked her sword with his gauntlet.

"So you are still relying on children's toys. In the end, Magic is merely the art of devils. How many times have I told you, it misleads and twists the world, it is no more than a shrewd little trick."

Zaitlead said as he raised his gigantic sword.

"I will show you what real power looks like."

Zaitlead swung the sword towards the ground. A violent current of pure destructive force whirled and tore the atmosphere. The blade that was supposed to have been a mere piece of steel had split the earth, the rift continued far into the distance.

Fortunately, Yunis was able to dodge the blow. But if she had not, whether the attack was met by sword or armor, it would have surely been cut in two.

However, Yunis was not one to falter so easily. She moved spryly like the wind, as if dancing in the air, she slashed at him from every angle. Zaitlead, on the other hand, did not make any unnecessary moves, he saw through her feints and fended off the attacks.

It was an awe-inspiring offensive and defensive battle. Now that Yunis had gone all out, the speed of her movements could not even be followed by Ellen, let alone Aur.

In comparison, Zaitlead's movements were slow, but the fight had already surpassed the notion that slower movements would result in being hit. It was a perfect kind of slowness, with the weight to repel blows without speed, the keeping of movements to a minimum and being able to read your opponents movements as if predicting the future.

Ellen had drawn an arrow for support, but there was no question of her letting it loose. The Dark Elf who was said to have the skill to best a thousand men could only watch the unreachable heights that this battle between heroes existed in.

Zaitlead, who had been fighting defensively up until now, suddenly diverted into an attack. Yunis blocked it with her left arm and thrust her sword forward.

Zaitlead's great sword had slashed Yunis' arm open, releasing a stream of blood. Yunis' sword shallowly rested in Zaitlead's chest, soaking the blood.

They were an even match with a sword. If one was struck by an attack, the other would catch them off guard and land a blow as well. But the gap in weapon and physical size was hopeless.

Yunis was only slightly higher than Aur's chest level, a small girl. While Zaitlead was a large man whose head seemed to reach the heavens. Their weapons were a light short sword and a heavy great sword, the difference in reach was plain to see.

"Haa, haa, ha...!"

Yunis panted heavily as her entire body dripped with blood.

"Surrender. You cannot beat me."

Zaitlead said coolly. He too was covered in countless wounds, but unlike Yunis, they were shallow and hardly even bled.

"...That might just be true. However, what about two against one?"

Aur's magic healed Yunis' wounds in the blink of an eye. This was not like the time he fought the soldiers at Figuria Castle. There was only one enemy, and he had plenty of magic prepared.

"...How pitiful. Do you think you can beat me with that?"

Zaitlead swung his sword. There was no way for him to avoid the blade and Aur's body was severed in two, leaving the apparition to return to its original wooden form.

"Didn't I tell you, magic is mere child's play. You cannot defeat me with such..."

"Then, how about this."

Cutting off Zaitlead's words, Aur once again revealed himself. Without answering, Zaitlead raised his sword. Taking advantage of the opening, Yunis

rushed forward and thrust her sword out. Zaitlead twisted his body to dodge the attack, but the point of her blade gouged into his body; blood sprayed.

"If you attack me, you leave yourself open to Yunis. If you attack Yunis, I will heal her wounds."

Aur appeared behind Zaitlead, who was holding his wounds and backing away from Yunis.

"It may be child's play. ...but, can you still win against it?"

And then another figure that was Aur appeared from another direction. It was not an illusion. If it was, Zaitlead would have seen through it in an instant. Because regardless of shape, he was impervious to magic.

They were all substitute forms. They were Aur, and at the same time, they were not Aur. It was even possible for him to move several of them at the same time as long as they were visible to him.

"Now, let us compare. Will your strength be the first to be drained, or will it be these substitutes."

Aur gave a mischievous grin.

Part 6

"...Very well then."

Zaitlead sighed and thrust his greatsword into the earth. This battle between heroes ended with Yunis and Aur as victors through strategy. Or so anyone who was present would have thought.

"In that case, I will no longer hold back."

Zaitlead said, his face wore a beastly smile.

In the next instant, Yunis' body had been slammed to the ground. A small crater formed from the impact, and dust and debris was flying all around them.

"Ooooo!!"

Zaitlead growled loudly and with one hand, grabbed Yunis by both of her legs and as if wielding a whip, repeatedly smashed her into the ground. With every swing the earth shattered, the dirt lifted, and the bed of stone scattered with blooded fragments.

"Wha..."

At that moment, Aur could not move so much as a finger. It was not because he was frozen by fear or shock. It was because Zaitlead's movements were much too quick. It even surpassed the speed at which Yunis had moved earlier.

"A Hero is someone who dominates the world and forces it to yield."

Zaitlead said as Yunis hung from his arm. She was limp as if dead; blood dripped profusely from her head.

"Magic only for trickery and theft is not on my level. But I will give you credit for pushing me into getting serious."

To Zaitlead, the greatsword was not a weapon, but a shackle. If he had a weapon with a lot of weight, the output of power could not exceed its weight. If it was a weapon with great hardness, the power it could output would not exceed that hardness.

It was in both of his fists that a power that far surpassed any superficial cursed blade was contained. For him, they were the ultimate weapons.

"As a reward, I will grant you a painless death."

Zaitlead said as he took a step forward towards Aur. Yunis tightly grabbed his leg with her blood-soaked arms.

"N...o..."

"You're still conscious...I would expect no less from you."

Zaitlead untangled her arms and once again swung her into the ground.

"I...won't...let..."

In spite of it all, Yunis continued to desperately cling to his leg. For the first time, Zaitlead's face contorted in irritation.

"I suppose it is also the nature of Heroes, to not be allowed a peaceful death."

Yunis would die if his attacks continued any further. However, she wouldn't let go unless she... no, even if she died, her arms would not let go. While Zaitlead was ordered to bring her home, dead or alive, it was, of course, preferable to bring her back alive if he could. He clicked his tongue in annoyance and glared at Aur.

"I'll grant you your life for a little while longer. Until then, enjoy this brief moment you have."

Zaitlead picked up Yunis along with his sword and strode back to his camp, in the same measured way that he had first come.

The casualties for Aur's army were nearly 300. The opposing enemies casualties were 1,500.

While the numbers may have painted this first battle as a triumph, it came to a close with an enormous loss.

"...So you were defeated."

The king asked with a note of mirth in his voice.

"We had anticipated an ambush, but not the pitfall and the dropping of boulders. ...Yes, you can call it a defeat."

Zaitlead reported as he knelt before his father.

It was not like Wolf, using tactics to fight with fewer numbers would be a [handicap] to him. Wolf could easily crush his enemies should he decide to fight in full force. For him to attain the weapon of strategy which was his weakness, would only make him more powerful. While different in scale, the father and son were doing the same thing.

But even then, it had been a long time since someone who could defeat Wolf had appeared. This event that hadn't occurred in years, filled him with expectation; he questioned his son.

"You said that you met the Demon Lord. What did you think?"

"He is puny. ...He is no match for a king."

Wolf growled in satisfaction at Zaitlead's instant reply.

"As our early information related, his fighting ability appears to be nearly nonexistent. And in intelligence and resourcefulness, I would say that woman, Cass is his superior."

"And what of his army of monsters?"

"They are a bigger threat than the weak soldiers from Figuria. But they are no match for our army, if we faced them head-on."

Wolf visibly lost interest at Zaitlead's answer.

"Yunis is currently undergoing treatment as well as the unbinding of the curse."

"...I see."

Wolf said without interest.

"We will have her slay the Demon King when she awakens."

Zaitlead raised his head in surprise at Wolf's words, he looked up at the face of his father, his master, the king.

"And if she takes the side of the Demon Lord once again, kill her."

The king said without changing his expression, in the same plain tone a farm owner orders the slaughtering of cattle.

"But,"

"You know it as well. What makes a Hero."

The rough face of Zaitlead, that usually lacked any expression, twisted ever so slightly as he tried to object, but the grave voice of Wolf cut him off.

"Do not allow such an insignificant thing as the life or death of another to affect you. You surpass even me with your skill with the sword. But if you remain soft, it will be the end of you."

"...I will keep that in mind."

Zaitlead received his father the king's words with some resentment as he left the king's room. He continued with his long stride through the palace and opened the door of Yunis' room.

"...Older brother."

Yunis was sitting up in her bed, her entire body was covered in bandages.

I am sorry. How are you feeling? Are you better?

He swallowed down all the words that came to his mind and instead addressed the prime minister beside her.

"Were you able to lift the curse?"

"Yes. Without any complications. She was subjected to some odd suggestions as well, so I had those removed as well."

Prime minister Toscan made an exaggerated bow.

"Yunis. You have received an order."

Zaitlead informed his sister in an expressionless voice.

"Kill the Demon Lord, Aur."

"...Understood."

"In the event of your failure, I will cut off your head."

"Yes."

"...That is all."

Yunis nodded, Zaitlead turned on his heels and exited the room.

"Princess...Zaitlead is..."

"I am fine, Toscan."

Yunis smiled cheerfully at the worried prime minister.

"Even I understand it well. What a true Hero is. And my mind is now clear thanks to the breaking of the curses and suggestions as well."

Yunis clenched her fists. She understood now, with the curses and suggestions gone. How Aur had really been seeing her.

"These wounds will surely be healed after three days. ...I will go and finish this once and for all."

"May the fortunes of war go with you..."

Toscan could do nothing but pray.

"I have returned."

"Welcome home."

His wife, Hilda, took Zaitlead's mantle and sword belt as she greeted him with her usual smile.

"You seem tired."

"...I am."

Zaitlead sat heavily on the sofa and closed his eyes. He had driven his beloved younger sister into the jaws of death, and could not even send her off with a kind word. There was no end to the remorse he felt, but still, they could not change the way they lived their lives. That is what it meant to be a Hero.

Without speaking, without hearing, Hilda quietly wrapped her arms around Zaitlead's head. She was an average girl with no skills with the sword or gift for sorcery. But her existence had the power to heal Zaitlead more than anything.

There should be nothing to fear. Yunis would kill Aur and return triumphant. While she may not be a match for Zaitlead, she was still the daughter of a hero. Surely she would have no trouble defeating one shrewd little sorcerer.

Yet even while he tightly held his wife in his arms, his fear would not fade.

Part 7

"...Aur, you came."

Yunis greeted Aur in a thin grove that was a short distance from the entrance of the dungeon. Lilu and Spina had come too and stood by Aur's side. But Yunis sensed that there were others hiding among the trees as well. When a dark elf hides in the shadows of the trees, no one in the world would be able to find them.

"You didn't have to go through the trouble of sending a letter to call me here."

Aur removed the letter from his pocket and burned it in his hand. The magical flames engulfed the letter in an instant. The letter had been mixed in with tribute from the village.

It was a plain note that asked Aur to come to this place and to bring Lilu and Spina with him.

"Would you believe me if I said that I have no intention of fighting you?"

"Yes, I would."

Aur nodded at Yunis' question. She was more surprised than he, as she had not expected an affirmative answer.

"Because there would be no point in killing me here. As you well know, this body is just a substitute. Lilu and Spina as well. Your best option would be to pretend you are an ally and enter the dungeon, where you could kill us without a fight. "

"Ah, I see now."

Yunis laughed bitterly. It seemed that she had underestimated Aur. She, who had an impulsive nature, had not even considered such a plan.

"Vaguely. I had started to realize...though it wasn't until the curses and suggestions were removed that I knew for certain. That you were deceiving me in many ways, I somehow knew. ...That you were also trying to make me fall off

the back of the dragon."

Yunis said as she turned her back towards Aur. But even as she did so, she did not leave them an opening to attack. Aur and the others moved at a speed that would allow her to evade an attack just by sensing it, even with her eyes closed. So of course, she had sensed Aur's menacing presence at Figuria castle as well.

"Aur. I know that you don't trust humans, but I don't think you hate them either."

Yunis said suddenly as she turned around to face him.

"There are many people who don't have faith in humans. Many of the evil sorcerers that I have killed up until now have been that way. They were betrayed, slandered and had stones thrown their way. They grew bitter against the world, against humans, against everything, so they tried to destroy it all. They use captives as slaves, and the deaths and pain of their slaves mean nothing to them. Those are the real, evil sorcerers. But, you were different."

"You've overrated me significantly. ...Those sorcerers were fools. Slaves or not, if you want them to work sufficiently, a degree of privilege will make them much more efficient. That is all it was."

Yunis nodded as Aur answered as if it was obvious.

"Yes. I believe that is how you truly feel. But still, I don't think that you actually hate humans. You don't enjoy hurting them and making them suffer without purpose."

The Hero stared into the Demon Lord's eyes as if looking into the depths of his heart.

"Aur. Why is it that you don't trust anyone? Humans, monsters, subjects, friends—not even yourself."

"...What are you saying?"

Yunis chuckled as Aur groaned the reply. She had the same smile that she had when she used to stand next to him.

"I just want to know. How you came to be like this. The past of a person I was once fond of."

She said straightforwardly.

"Tell me, Aur. Are you an evil that must be destroyed, or a king to be served? Tell me....and the people that love you."

"Yunis..."

Unthinking, Lilu called out her name. Yunis had asked Aur to bring Lilu and Spina here, just to hear this.

"You don't think that I would just lie? That I would fabricate a sob story to tell you?"

"That is something I will have to determine for myself. ...But, I don't think you would have brought that up if it was your intention to begin with."

Aur sighed at her answer.

"Very well then. ...Stand back, Ellen."

"...As you command."

Out of nowhere the voice echoed through the trees and faded into the darkness. Aur used magic to detect her presence and make sure there was no one else present before he began to speak.

"This is... the truth, what I am about to say. The mundane truth that this world is full of, the normal way that things occur. It is not a story of a poor child or a wounded heart. It's as simple in principle as a stone rolling down a hill, as water falling from a high place."

Aur prefaced before he began his story.

"It was 70 years ago. This happened in Praeti, a small country which no longer has any traces of ever existing. At that time, Praeti and Figuria were waging a terrible war. I lost my own family through that war and had to become a beggar. It was Raz...who then found me, she was my instructor in sorcery. She gave me everything. Wisdom, education, chores, sorcery, the warmth of a household and love. The love of a parent, the love of a family, and the love between a man and a woman...all of it. She was my mother, my older sister, my best friend and my lover. ...Why, Lilu, why are you making that face?"

Aur could not help but remonstrate as Lilu stood speechless with her mouth

agape.

"...Uh, I, I'm sorry. I did not expect that word, love, to come from your lips..."

"Be quiet and listen."

Perhaps knowing that it was indeed, not like him, Aur cleared his throat and continued.

"Raz had been developing a new weapon. Her skills with enchantments were without equal, she was a genius. The weapon that she developed had the power to destroy a thousand soldiers, it allowed the small kingdom of Praeti to rival even Figuria. ...However, she changed after she took me in. I don't know what she thought upon seeing a child who was orphaned by war. In all honesty, I have never once blamed her, I never wished that she would stop developing weapons of war. But Raz had ceased developing weapons, which made her an enemy of her country. She was suspected of not only leaving Praeti in a difficult place, but secretly communicating with Figuria."

Aur paused there for a moment. This was the point where Aur was able to keep calm even during Cass' report. That rage was something that even he could not predict. He controlled his breathing and continued.

"The tower where we were living was surrounded by the soldiers of Praeti, we could do nothing but wait for our deaths. And so Raz cast a curse on me and gave me an order. [Take my head to the soldiers and beg for clemency]she said. I did as she commanded. With my own hand, I killed the person that I loved more than any in this world, just to curry favor with the soldiers and be allowed to live my miserable life. And it had nothing to do with my own will."

Aur was surprised at how clearly and smoothly he was able to relate it.

"It is a simple fact. I have no wish to deny the wonders of love. I won't even say that trust has no value. However, these things are all overcome by power. Military strength. Wisdom. Magic. Fortune. Authority. There is no kind of love or bond that is not powerless against real, almighty power. No matter how much you love a person, people will always betray you. By a power that exceeds that love."

Aur had loved Raz more than anyone. He was confident in his love. He would

have done anything for her. No matter what happened to himself, he would protect her through anything. The boy who was pure, with no knowledge of the world, had believed this.

"I am not sulking at the world. Neither do I fear communion with others due to a debilitating trauma. I was able to overcome such things in my twenties and thirties. Yunis. Just as you loved me through the curse I cast on you. And as it was trampled into the dust by your brother. As Demons and even Gods are subject to fall with time. People, and all that live in this world, none have a way to overcome violence."

And so Aur pursued power. He pursued it with an unhealthy obsession, the means to solve everything. And once he had attained that power, he tore away trust, killed friendships, severed bonds and seized love by force.

"...That is, true."

Yunis knew it more than anyone. She, who had been born a hero and saved many, but had also left thousands dead in her wake.

Though one may be able to attain inhuman power and be hailed a Hero, there are uncountable lives that cannot be saved. People will always have to die, and when they die, even their memory will fade.

"But, even so, I still believe. You, Aur. You, that I love."

Yunis said in a clear voice, she looked forward with unwavering eyes. An evil that must be destroyed, or a king to be served? She had been certain of the answer even before he had told his tale. She was satisfied with just knowing that the love and trust that she had felt from Aur had not been a lie. Even if it was just a fleeting thing against real power, it was something that still existed.

"It is not something that was just planted through curses or suggestions. I love the Aur that I felt within my own heart. So, please. ...Even just a little, please believe in me too."

Yunis wrapped Aur in an embrace and kissed him. Aur had instinctively moved to stop her, but his hands stopped after a moment of hesitation. And at that moment, Yunis pulled herself away from him, smiled and said:

"Goodbye."

An outrageous fountain of blood shot up; her smile turned upside down.

Yunis' head rolled on the ground. Behind was the figure of Zaitlead, his face bore no expression as he held the bloodied sword.

Part 8

"Bastard...!"

"It is I who should be outraged. You abducted my younger sister and...forced me to kill her."

Zaitlead said in a voice full of anger as he held the collapsed body of Yunis in his arms.

"I would like nothing more than to kill you all where you stand, but it seems that your actual bodies are in the labyrinth. Prepare yourselves and wait. I won't be long in breaking in and ensuring your bodies are ground until there is nothing left."

Zaitlead announced and swung his sword. The three forms crumbled into splinters of wood in a single hit and scattered on the ground.

"There is no need for that. I will settle this right here and now."

An amber light flashed on the ground as Aur teleported from the labyrinth. In his arms, a single woman was held captive.

"My love...!"

It was Zaitlead's wife, Hilda who was pushed forward with her hands tied behind her back.

"The life of this woman..."

"What a foolish thing you've-"

Before Aur could finish, Zaitlead's sword flashed. His sword plunged into Hilda's breast, she looked at him with uncomprehending eyes.

"My...lo...ve..."

Blood poured from her mouth as her body fell to the ground. In an instant, the body changed to a very different looking woman; a stranger.

"Magic has no power over me. Did you really believe that I would be phased by such an illusion?"

Zaitlead gave Aur a contemptuous glare as he swung the blood off his sword.

"Indeed. There is no sorcery that affects you. Your sword knows no hesitation, no carelessness, you would even kill your own younger sister."

"...What are you saying? What do you want? Do you think that you, a sorcerer, could beat me?"

"I am saying that your lack of hesitation and carelessness is carelessness."

Aur turned the body of Hilda over with his foot and pulled her soul from the body.

[My love...]

Zaitlead's eyes widened at the ghost that floated in the air. There was no doubt about it, she was Hilda.

"The soul cannot be imitated. Surely you do understand that this is not a lie, that the real soul of Hilda is right here."

"It can't be...!?"

Zaitlead's body shook, his eyes bore into the ghost before him. It was not an illusion by magic. There was no possibility of it being another with a similar appearance. It was her real soul, her real appearance.

"You foolish Hero. You deny sorcery as child's play, you underestimated it and put too much faith in your own eyes. Flesh and bones can be altered into any shape."

Cut and bend the flesh and bones, then simply bind them in place before using a restoration spell. And through the bonds, the flesh and bones will alter their shape in order to fit. Just as Faro, the hobbit girl, had her womb reshaped. He had done the same to the abducted Hilda.

He had also fried her throat to change her voice before recreating Hilda's original voice and appearance with an illusion. The illusion was the reality.

"Bastard!!"

"Are you sure now? Do you know that I can bring her back to life?"

Aur said as Zaitlead threw his sword down and was about to make a grab for

Aur. Zaitlead's arms paused a moment before his fingers tore Aur to shreds.

"It was just one stab in the chest. You're very skilled. With this degree of damage, I could still bring her back. Fortunately, her soul is still preserved right here. If I healed her wounds and returned her soul, this woman would come back to life. If I used magic, that is."

Aur then embedded the soul of Hilda into his own body. With this done, Zaitlead could no longer lay a finger on him.

"To be honest, it would be ceaselessly boring to have you torn to pieces... And your skills are so valuable. I could bring your wife back to life, if you accept my curse and work for me."

"What did you..."

Zaitlead's [Curse of Lead] was one that he had cast on himself. His strength was his creed... he was dependant on the worldview that Magic was inconsequential and worthless. If he desired and accepted the protection of magic, if he wished for the resurrection of his wife, that curse would naturally, be broken.

Zaitlead thought hard. Hilda's death was incomparable to the death of Yunis.

It wasn't the difference between a sister and a wife, it was the difference between a hero and a mere human. The difference between someone destined for an untimely death and someone with the possibility of leaving this world peacefully.

"...If I do as you say, you will help Hilda?"

"Yes. I will bring her back to life without a single scratch remaining."

Aur nodded.

"I see..."

In the next instant, his body separated in two, leaving a pile of sawdust.

"I refuse."

It was a difficult decision for him. He had killed his beloved wife, he would carry that guilt. Even through that, he could not stop being a Hero. If he did, he

would be doing a disservice to his younger sister, who he had killed to remain a Hero.

Now that no one remained, Zaitlad was filled with a sense of emptiness. To destroy the evil in the world, to fight the unjust, to protect the people. That is the calling given to Heroes. However, he himself had not obeyed this calling without question at all times.

His wife, his sister. He was able to fight until now and tarnish his hands in the blood of countless people because he had something to protect. But he no longer had anything to protect. He himself had killed the both of them.

"My love!"

And that is why he could not oppose it.

"Hilda...!?"

He ran up to her and held her as she pulled herself close to him. Her soft skin, that face he loved more than anything, the familiar voice. It was his wife without a doubt.

"You were alive...?"

"Yess....!"

Zaitlead held her close as tears streamed down her face, he softly kissed her. A sense of euphoria filled his chest and he was overcome with relief. It was a bad dream. That he had killed his wife, his sister. He subconsciously accepted this illusion....this magic.

Amidst the joy, the heart of the Hero stopped moving. All of his life force had been taken by the succubus who had the appearance of his wife.

"...heh."

Lilu sighed as she returned to her usual form. The life force of the Hero was unsurprisingly, of a high quality in taste. Normally, she would have liked to crack a joke at this point, but standing next to where Yunis' head had rolled did not put her in the mood.

"Aur, hurry up and resurrect the poor girl."

A substitute of Aur emerged from the shadow of a tree, and Lilu handed him Yunis' head and body. Aur placed his hand on the severed neck and Yunis' head reconnected with her body without a trace of blood remaining. However, without a change in expression, Aur mumbled:

"I cannot."

"What?"

Ignoring Lilu's question, Aur walked passed her and put his hand over Hilda's body as well. In a blink of an eye, the open wound in the chest became whole once again. He also reversed time on her face, bringing it back to what it once was.

"...you can't? What do you mean?"

Lilu asked as Aur methodically dealt with the bodies.

"You cannot resurrect Heroes. ...Look closely at the body."

"...No. There is no soul!"

Lilu shouted as she looked at the bodies as instructed. It would be impossible to resurrect them if they had no souls. No matter how their bodies were returned to normal, they were nothing but empty vessels.

"The soul of a Hero returns straightway into the heavens when they die. That is how it has always been."

"...Does that mean..."

Lilu had a memory of something very similar happening.

"There is nothing too impressive about Heroes. ...There is not much difference between them and a sorcerer who makes a contract with the Devil."

Aur nodded and spat as Lilu became speechless.

Part 9

"Zaitlead was defeated?"

"Yes, your majesty."

Prime minister Toscan bowed his head in respect as Wolf thoughtfully ran his fingers through his beard.

Zaitlead had said that his unworthy opponent was insignificant, a mere sorcerer. He, who had been unique Hero that repelled all magic, he would not have fallen by just any witless scheme.

"...He may be worthy of some expectations after all."

"...Your majesty."

Toscan raised his voice in reproach as Wolf broke into an unconscious grin.

"Lady Yunis....the princess, what did she...!"

"O Toscan. Your anger is justified."

Wolf replied magnanimously to Toscan who had gambled his own life with the outburst.

"However, those that are born Heroes have the values of Heroes. It is a much happier thing for one to die swiftly and leave this wretched world."

"...It is difficult for me to see it that way."

Wolf nodded.

"Your sincerity is the reason that I choose to keep you by my side. But, eventually, the day will come when you understand."

"But..."

"Your Majesty. I have news."

Toscan continued to protest but his words were cut off by the messenger.

"You have my ear."

"The Demon Lord has appeared with an army of 3,000 near the plains about

10 miles north of the royal capital. Unlike the previous battle, the majority of his force are magical beasts. They are currently marching straight for us, they will arrive here at any moment now."

The messenger took a knee and calmly relayed the message. Even if each individual monster was superior to a human soldier, 3,000 was still no match.

"Close the gates of the city, send the entire army to take up the defenses."

"You will...hold the castle, my lord?"

The messenger exclaimed in surprise at the king's words. He was not one to react in such a way. This issue could have easily been dealt with by sending out 10,000 troops to the field to fight. Allowing the enemy to besiege the castle would cost time, equipment and manpower. It was a method used when you were at a disadvantage in numbers and have to wait for your enemy to run out of resources, or when you wait for reinforcements.

"Yes. With our entire force of 100,000 troops!"

"...Yes, my lord!"

The messenger bowed and quickly retreated from the room. The unexpected order had caused him to question the king, something a mere soldier such as he, had no business doing.

More importantly, he needed to relate the command to the order of knights who were preparing for an attack, they must prepare to take a defensive position instead.

"Now...I will go out in full force. What will you do with just 3,000? Demon Lord Aur..."

Wolf murmured.

"...He's holding the castle?"

Aur's voice was filled with suspicion as he saw the gates close and the enemy soldiers surround the walls.

"They are not underestimating you this time."

Lilu said in a stiff voice as she floated behind him.

"...Even so, our strategy will remain unchanged."

The fighting force he had brought for this battle centered around demi-humans such as giants, lizard men, and centaurs; the elite of the elite from Aur's labyrinth. They were superior compared with regular soldiers of Grandiera, they beat them by just the merits of their own race.

Even so, the enemy was 100,000. That was not a number that could be dealt with, with just 3,000. And the enemy had chosen to hold the castle.

"I am counting on you, Logan."

"Aye. Leave it to me. I'll accomplish it in one blow."

Logan laughed as he accepted the responsibility. His fighting force this time would consist only of Logan and Lilu. Ellen, Mio and the others were kept in the labyrinth for defense.

"Your face is gross when you laugh."

"Shut up, I don't have this face because I like it!"

With Lilu and Logan arguing behind him, Aur gave the order.

"All troops, attack!"

And so the march of death began.

"...So they have come."

Wolf murmured as he saw the Demon Lord's army approaching from afar. Covered in armor and brandishing the sword of his early years, he was the perfect image of the praised Heroes in sagas. His presence that was so full of spirit and power caused the morale of the soldiers to reach its peak.

The monstrous gates were tightly closed, even siege level sorcery would have a difficult time breaking it. Atop the strong walls were lines of weapons that included catapults and ballista. Soldiers armed with bows filled the gaps between the machines.

Once the enemy entered firing range, the projectiles would immediately fall like rain, they would die before they could even reach the gates. That is what the numbers 100,000 against 3,000 truly meant.

And since no troops were being sent out, they would not fall for any traps such as pitfalls. Even the boulder attack that Aur had employed previously would not work, as they had users of aerial sorcery and crossbowmen with incredible range, who would shoot them down as soon as they were spotted.

Realistically speaking, Wolf's victory was something unshakeable. But even then, Wolf had long desired for someone to appear that would exceed all expectations. Years before Aur had appeared.

"They are almost within range. Soldiers, in position!"

The catapults and ballista were cranked back tightly. The firing range of these weapons was about 400 yards(approximately 360 meters), allowing them to attack targets twice as far as what was capable with a longbow.

"Now, fire!"

All at once, uncountable arrows and boulders flew in the sky. And at the exact same instant, Aur's entire army vanished.

"Was it an illusion!? ...no, they were teleported!"

Caution over illusions was the first step of any battle. There was no possibility that Wolf's sorcerers had not anticipated such a thing. But even Wolf had not expected a teleportation at such a close range. Teleporting your troops would cause unavoidable confusion. Furthermore, the teleportation itself would cost tremendous amounts of Magic. It was not sensible to teleport your army as they were in the middle of marching.

"Your majesty, there they are!"

He drew his attention to where the soldier indicated, the Demon Lord's army had relocated to a place that was nearly 100 yards from where they had been. It was about 200 yards from the position of Wolf's archers. It would be a lot more difficult to use their weapons at such a close range.

"Archers, draw!"

The hefty soldiers immediately drew their longbows. The enemy had just used a significantly costly spell. Demon Lord or not, he would surely have no magical energy left to stop the arrows.

That assumption of Wolf's would be proven wrong once again.

"Your majesty, half of the enemy troops have teleported once again!"

"They have done what!?"

The rear half of the Demon Lord's army, the cavalry...no, the group of centaurs had teleported once again, this time they landed 100 yards from the outer walls. No one would have anticipated that Aur would split up his small army even further.

"...Stop the succeeding army without fail. Shoot the mounts from the outer walls!"

The archers began to target the succeeding troops of the Demon Lord's army; arrows began to fly. The stalwart lizardmen and giants did not balk from the attacks, they continued to slowly move forward to the outer walls, even as their numbers decreased.

"The enemy has reached the walls!"

"Drop the boulders, let them taste burning oil!"

At the king's orders, the soldiers threw boulders and burning oil from the castle walls. The centaurs were wounded by the attacks but did not stop in their rush towards the castle walls.

In truth, the castle walls had inferior magical defenses compared to the gates. Compared to the painstakingly enchanted gates, the castle walls might as well have been bare of magical protection.

Even so, the castle walls made of bricks were sturdy. No ordinary attack would break it, and even if it could, it would merely open a small hole. Unlike the main gate that would allow a large army to pass, a small hole that allowed one or two people to pass would have little tactical value.

Was it just a reckless suicided attack...? As Wolf pondered suspiciously, there was a sudden explosion in the castle walls, a giant hole appeared. All at once the beasts passed through the hole and invaded the royal capital. No matter how many of their own were killed, they showed no sign of caring; it was an incredible suicide attack.

Wolf realized the enemies aim when he saw the figure leading the attack. Indeed, it was what would be inevitable should Aur win against Wolf. ...But, that would be going too far in exceeding his expectation.

"Your majesty! ...Uh, in the enemy..."

"Zaitlead is among them."

He finished as the messenger hesitated, the messenger looked at Wolf's face in surprise.

"Likely, his body is being manipulated by a demon. He is the one who broke the castle walls."

Wolf unsheathed the treasured sword, [Flant]and raised his voice in anger.

"Call the troops back. I will have him know what a true Hero really is!"

Wolf jumped down from the ramparts and shouted. Even the stone walls shook from his voice and echoed loudly. He swung his sword at the onrush of beasts, cutting in half even monsters that were 10 feet out of the reach of his sword.

Wolf dashed on like the wind. He soon descended to the place where the man who wore the face of his son stood.

"You over there. I think I would like the body of my son returned."

Zaitlead gave a flippant smile that he had never shown in life, and said:

"I won't return such a convenient body easily. Oh, I may consider it in exchange for 10 girls."

"...vulgar fiend."

Wolf spat and held up his sword. In life, had Zaitlead raised a serious revolt, he may have won against his father. But Wolf had no intention of allowing himself to be beaten by this sham that was a manipulated corpse.

"I would love to fight with you as a test. Unfortunately, today, I am only here for a delivery."

"...Delivery?"

As Wolf furrowed his brows, a young man with amber colored hair descended

in front of him.

"You must be the Demon Lord."

"The one and only."

Wolf gave him an appraising look. His magical power, his physique, none of it was noteworthy. Wolf was not surprised that Zaitlead had declared him as insignificant.

But at the same time, he was sure of another thing as he looked into his eyes.

They were the eyes of one who would do anything to get what they want. Not so much cunning or daring, they were the eyes of one whose will was evil-natured and pure and unyielding. In his whole life, the people that had been capable of pushing Wolf to the brink had had these kinds of eyes.

"...O Demon Lord. Surely, you did not believe that demon over there could defeat me? What trick have you prepared?"

"Indeed...I do believe he could win against the likes of you."

Wolf's brows narrowed at Aur's odd claim. Aur then pulled out a crown of gold from a pocket in his robes.

It was a glittery crown encrusted with jewels.

"Wolf. You are a Hero amongst Heroes, a king amongst kings. The Hero King who defeats all. You are the only one who is worthy of this crown."

Wolf accepted the crown that Aur held out. He could not perceive any magic, let alone curses of any sort. The jewels were all real, the frame was pure gold. It had considerable value in terms of price, but Wolf did not understand the significance of the gift.

"What is this?"

"It is poison."

Aur answered bluntly to the king's question. With those words, Wolf reached a certain conclusion.

"You, is this really...!"

"It is a poison that will destroy this country. ...I expect a lot from you, Wolf."

That you put up a good fight."

Wolf would have liked to cut Aur down, but it was already too late. Whether he received the crown or not, it being brought here was what established Wolf's defeat.

The demon that controlled Zaitlead's body had disappeared without notice. Their purpose fulfilled, Aur's troops began to fall back one after the other.

The soldiers were cheering with joy over their victory, but this was not victory. Wolf tightly gripped his sword and looked up into the sky.

It would come. To find it's precious, lost treasure.

The oldest, most powerful dragon.

Part 10

Those that knew her name are long gone.

For she had come into this world even before the great Shinma War.

Her few comrades lost their lives in that war, and those that remained would soon follow by the hands of Heroes. Among those dragons that were left, she became known as the oldest.

Her appearance was that of a lizard with several horns protruding from the back of her head. She had a jaw full of sharp teeth and on her back grew a pair of bat-like wings.

The word [dragon] would evoke an appearance such as hers in the minds of most people, however, the reality is quite different. Some resemble wolves, others resemble lions, some have multiple heads, multiple pairs of wings and some have no wings at all.

But in all that, she alone had the ancient, traditional appearance. She did not take the form of a human, she did not use magic, but with her fangs, scales, and flames, she was more powerful and beautiful than any dragon.

That was her. Now, known only as [Metus], she was the oldest and strongest dragon.

Metus had lived a happy and peaceful existence for the past few hundred years. There were no longer any fools who wished to challenge her, not even amongst the Heroes. Her days passed as she slept in a coil atop thousands of years worth of hoarded treasure, devouring the occasional animal, monster or human that wandered into her lair.

She had accumulated the treasure over thousands, tens of thousands of years and was aware of it all, down to the last coin. She would stare at it and bask in the happiness it brought, losing herself in it even in her sleep. That people would occasionally visit and bring her treasure was her biggest joy.

However, she would not attack people for the sake of that joy. She was satisfied with just being left alone in the mountain cave, living out her final days

in bliss.

But one day, something happened that would change her life. One of her crowns had vanished from her lair. She became red with rage and searched her nest for the missing crown. Yet the crown was never found, instead, she smelled the scent of three humans and one hobbit.

Someone had stolen one of her treasures while she was sleeping.

She went mad with rage and flew from her cave. Once she was outside, she could clearly sense the scent of the crown, and she flew through the clouds straight towards it. There was no time to enjoy the outside world she was seeing for the first time in hundreds of years. The only thought on her mind was to retrieve her treasure and to destroy the humans who stole it without mercy. To burn them all so that not even their ashes would remain.

She cut through the sky, faster than an arrow, finding the one who presently possessed her treasure in no time. This one had a different scent from those she had sensed in the cave, but it did not matter to her. By holding her treasure and being human, he became a natural target of her wrath.

Wolf himself, had made his mind. He held his treasure sword [Flant]and prepared to meet Metus. His opponent was a dragon among dragons who had lived through the age of gods. Whether he was victorious or not, he knew that this would be the last fight of his life.

"All of you, stand back! Have the people evacuated!"

"B...but, your majesty...!"

"Do you mean to humiliate me?"

At the king's words, the soldiers bowed and departed with teary eyes. A one-on-one battle between a Hero and a dragon was among the oldest and most honorable forms of battle.

But even with this knowledge, the soldiers could not stop themselves from picking up their spears. They had the clear sense that this would be the end for their leader.

Wolf realized that he had been smiling all this time.

This was it. This. This was the last battle worthy of him.

"My name is Wolf. Wolfdiel Sevrán Ru Ela Grandiera I! Come, ancient dragon. Let us engage in honest combat!"

Wolf announced himself in a loud voice and swung his sword. In his youth, this sword had once been used to cut down a Hero giant in a single blow. However, the same blow only bounced off the scales of Metus without making a single scratch.

Poisonous flames spewed from Metus' jaws towards Wolf. The flames immediately caused everything that surrounded Wolf to decay. Stones cracked and an area of death was created that no one could enter. If a soldier carelessly drew near, their arms would rot and fall, their lungs would succumb to the poison, preventing them from breathing.

Not even the Wolf the Hero, was immune. His skin was covered in sores and blood sprayed from all over his body. But the brave Hero king did not falter. Twice, thrice, his sharp blows slammed into Metus, and a spray of green blood emitted from her forehead.

And that blood too, was a deadly poison. Where the blood ran, the earth would crumble. It burned Wolf's body. The metal armor, even the blade of the treasure sword that had been blessed by God was corrupted and broken.

The vicious battle between the two lasted for three days and three nights. The battle was so dangerous, that even the soldiers who had finished evacuating the citizens could do nothing to help.

And on the morning of the fourth day, the battle finally ended.

Metus had covered her soft belly that was bare of scales with treasure as if it was armor. But the crown that Aur had stolen had left a small opening that exposed her belly.

Wolf had pierced through it with his sword and skewered her heart. Metus went mad, she breathed her poisonous flames all about, but Wolf did not yield. Even as his shoulder and chest were torn by her sharp claws, he only pushed the sword in deeper and deeper.

Metus' movements grew slower, and finally, that heart that had beaten for

thousands of years ceased to move.

As before, the poisonous flames did not allow any to come near, to even peer into the area; yet the lone Demon Lord appeared.

"...You have my...gratitude..."

Wolf said with the remaining strength he could muster.

"My power...an enemy that I could face with all my body and soul...I have....waited so long..."

"Is that why you had your daughter and son killed?"

Wolf's face turned to a smile of self-mockery at Aur's question.

"Surely, you understand...we may be praised as Heroes...but in the end, we are merely slaves of Heaven...that will not change, even in death."

Heroes are given tasks to elevate their souls.

The longer you live, the greater you become, the more terrible and cruel the task will be for the Hero to receive. And it will be the most remarkable when you die. The tasks will always involve something that is important to the Hero. And it will end with death and tragedy.

The youthful Yunis had died holding onto love.

Zaitlead had killed his beloved wife and he himself fell for a phantom.

And the aged Wolf, he would finally die, having caused the death of his beloved children and thousands of his own people.

"And so you thought that you would give them a more peaceful death? That is just your own delusions."

"That...may be true."

Wolf began to cough. The poison had taken his lungs, causing them to rot. It was unbelievable that he was still alive.

"O king...king of sorcery. I have a request, one king to the another...this country, please..."

"Very well. I will do it no harm. ...Leave it to me."

Wolf accepted Aur's words without suspicion. They were both enemies with a

hatred of the other. But there was also an odd feeling of trust between them.

"And...as a father, please. My daughter, I ask you..."

With those words said, Wolf expired.

"...If you are going to die, finish what you have to say first."

There was no one that Aur's words could have reached before they decayed and vanished.

"Recognize me?"

"Yes. It was the late king's final wish."

Prime minister Toscan said with a reverent bow.

"If anyone defeated him, he would recognize them as the new king."

"But I did not defeat him."

"It is as you say. However, I do not believe the late king...Lord Wolf, would agree."

Toscan declared with complete confidence. It was without a doubt, what the king would have said.

"He said that should his army lose by means of superior strategy, it should be considered as nothing less than total defeat for him."

"...You must hate me."

"More than I can express."

Toscan did not even try to hide his hatred as he glared at Aur.

"The killer of my lord, my princess, his royal highness. Even one of those alone instills enough hatred within me to want you dead, and you've done all three. I hate you enough that I could never become bored of killing you."

"Is the theft of your kingdom not among your reasons for wanting revenge?"

Aur let out an unexpected laugh. In spite of the intense hatred, the man was bound to swear loyalty to him through the words of the late king. Just how faithful could one man be?

"Such a matter does not compare to the lives of those that have died."

"...And what would you do if I told you that I could bring them back to life?"

"...You mock me. The soul of fallen Heroes ascend to the heavens. It was you yourself that said that resurrection was not possible."

Aur nodded. There was a slight hesitation in Toscan's words.

"That is so. ...It means that we have just to go and meet them ourselves."

Toscan blinked his eyes and stared at Aur who had answered so plainly.

"To go and...meet them?"

"Is it not obvious?"

Aur pointed a finger at the sky and as if it were the most natural thing in the world said:

"We will attack the Heavens next."

Chapter 15: Let's Paint a Chaotic Picture of Hell

Part 1

"Master! Please, please reconsider this!"

"I will not. This issue has already been settled."

Aur sharply cut off Spina, who was desperately pleading with him.

"But, it was you yourself who declared that Lafenice was not to be touched under any circumstances...!"

"You are being tedious. I was talking about the present. We will challenge them eventually, once we have sufficient military power. Now, things will just have to move a little faster."

Once his military force was ready, he would attack the religious state of Lafenice. As soon as Aur had made this declaration, Spina had instantly voiced her objection. And while they kept their mouths closed, Ellen and Lilu could not agree with Aur either. It was Aur himself who had claimed that Lafenice was an unbeatable foe, and even more, the reason for the attack was to [get Yunis back].

Death was something definite. If it was immediately after a person's death, there were ways, advanced as they were, to resurrect them. And those that held onto a strong hatred or had unfulfilled passions could sometimes remain in the world as a spirit.

But even so, a person that was completely dead could not be brought back to life. There have been tales of people that have traveled to the land of the dead in order to bring back wives or children, but there are no accounts of anyone succeeding. All of them either ended in failure or even if they did retrieve loved ones, they would be frightened by their changed appearances and flee. Some were even devoured alive.

Aur's intention of invading Heaven just because a fallen Hero had ascended to sit at God's table, came off as outlandish and reckless.

"I will discuss the matter no further. You will go and wait in your room."

Aur brushed her off and continued to walk through the labyrinth as she stretched a hand after him. Lilu came up beside him. As he walked quickly, she had to skip as she bashfully started to talk to him.

"Um, Aur...I may not be Spina, but I too, do not think that this will end well... Right now you, well...you are not yourself."

"Not myself?"

Aur paused in his steps and glared at Lilu.

"...It's not like you, to be so irritable and emotional. Is it not your method to calmly plan your moves, to avoid any and all unnecessary actions?"

"Don't act like you truly know me."

Aur grabbed her by the neck and pulled her close.

"I have not changed at all. My purpose has always been to have [everything]... To gain the definite[power]to dominate all."

His glaring eyes bore into Lilu's pupils. Those eyes, they were the eyes he had had when they first met; she now recalled.

Calm, collected, careful and dependable. Lilu was forced to remember that such things were only the surface, a single facet of this man. If they didn't find the Dragon Vein. If they could not find the place to dig. If they did not find as much magical energy as they had anticipated. If they could not make the dungeon core.

This was a man who had continually put his whole life on the line, had committed to actions that would come to nothing if there was even the slightest failure.

...But even so. Lilu felt that Aur's current temperament was strange.

"Do you think, back..."

Even now, that scene was firmly imprinted in Lilu's memories. The kiss Yunis

gave Aur, Zaitlead cutting off her head. That moment.

"Do you think that Yunis would have lived, had you held her back?"

"...I have no use for opinions based on hindsight."

It was possible that Yunis would not have died if Aur had believed her, had happily accepted her back into his fold. He must be tormented by that inner struggle...

So were Lilu's thoughts on the matter, and they were partially true and partially false.

"My mind is settled on that matter. If that's what you think, well, it just means that we should have had the power to overwhelm Zaitlead at that point."

Aur seemed to have calmed a little, having put his thoughts into spoken words, and he let go of Lilu's neck.

"It would seem that you all think me feeble-minded or worse. But let it be known, I am not particularly fixated on the death of Yunis alone, and I have no intention of fighting a battle with no possibility of us winning. I understand that we do not have the sufficient military power in the present. But it is not as if we are going to invade Lafenice right this moment."

Aur turned on his heels and said to Lilu:

"Call Ellen to the conference room. Tell her that there is something I need to discuss, it involves the white elves."

"...Mmm. Understood."

Lilu nodded, she stared at his back for a while. Even if he had lost his composure a little, he was still fundamentally the same Aur. But even so, the loss of that composure was something that had not happened before.

More than that, Yunis' body had been strictly warded with magic to prevent damage, even now, the body rested in her room. ...Had Aur seen something of the tutor that he had loved in Yunis, when she became lost to him in front of his eyes?

Every time this thought entered her mind, Lilu could feel an uncomfortable pain take over, like needles piercing her heart.

"They seem to be grateful to you."

"Grateful?"

Ellen cocked her head at the first words that came from Aur's mouth.

"The white elf Ceres, the beautiful princess with hair like golden threads and skin like silk. Evan, of the brave people of the forest, his hair was brown like tree bark and his eyes as green as leaves. The two loved each other, but the wall between their races prevented their union. But then the dark elves, evil and savage, attacked. Humans and white elves banded together to defeat the common foe. They have set aside their differences since then, and it is said that they joined their peoples together to build a single village, where they now live together in harmony."

"...Ahhh."

Ellen smiled thinly. It was a cold-blooded, intense smile, like a knife made of ice. The effect was much more chilling than if she had gone mad with rage.

The four underlings were embittered by the treatment in the story, just as she was. But as she smiled, they could do nothing but shrink in fear.

"...It's an outrage! We must make them pay for this!"

It was Mio alone who raised her voice instead of being intimidated. From Aur's point of view, it was Ellen and her kind who had attacked first. A part of him felt that they had merely reaped what they sowed, but Mio, who had completely fallen in with Ellen, seemed to see it differently.

"Ah, Mio. My dear friend. Do you mean that you will help me get revenge?"

"Of course, I will. Your enemies are my enemies."

Mio declared with finality. The two had become very close without Aur noticing. The small degree of diffidence she had shown towards Ellen not long ago had completely vanished, they would now talk with ease and on even footing.

"Even so, our enemy is most powerful. An opponent that not even the entire might of the black tribes could overcome. How will we go about fighting them?"

Aur nodded at the question posed by one of the underlings.

"I do not mind deploying human or demon soldiers, but things will be less complicated with Mio's cooperation. There is one painless way to win this fight, should you all agree to it."

"And what is that?"

Aur grinned mischievously as Ellen asked; he said:

"We will burn it all."

Part 2

It was a site worthy of being called a picture of hell.

"Hahahahaha! Burn, burn!"

Her usually delightful and lighthearted temperament had completely vanished. Ellen let loose fire arrow after fire arrow without even attempting to hide her own brutality.

"Now, all of you. Blow your flames over it!"

Mio ordered the hellhounds, in an instant their fiery breath had engulfed the trees and began to spread.

The people of the forest and the white elves could do nothing to resist this attack, they could only run and attempt an escape. It had become difficult to aim with their bows due to the light of the flames and the upward current that was blowing, and the arrows would not fly straight when loosed. The white elves used the trees to hear the voices of animals through magic, but with all the surrounding plants burned, there was nothing they could do against the hellhounds.

"Are you certain my lord? You said that the white elves were to be taken alive, but they will not survive in this fire."

Ellen asked Aur suddenly, perhaps now satiated after having loosed so many of her arrows.

"It will not be a problem. While the flames were lit to surround the village, there is a single spot that will allow them to escape. They should flee unharmed from there."

However, that is where the real hell will start for them; Aur added.

"The real hell?"

"Logan is stationed there."

Indeed. If a demon was there waiting, it was a hell; Ellen accepted. Now that Logan inhabited the body of Zaitlead, the Hero of Lead, he became

the greatest and most powerful warrior among the ranks of Aur's subordinates.

The [Curse of Lead] that repelled all magic had been broken, but the high ranking demon that was Logan, already had a resistance to weak magic. But unlike Zaitlead, he could use his own magical abilities, such as the manipulation of fire and flying through the sky.

Additionally, the unbelievable physical strength that Zaitlead had possessed remained the same. It was fearful that he held enough destructive force in a single fist, that he could blast away the solid castle walls in one hit.

If such a being was waiting for them at the exit, well, the fate of the white elves was surely sealed.

Ellen thought in relief, and in that instant, an arrow grazed her cheek.

"So you came after all. ...I thought that you would come. ...Man of the forest, and you, white princess!"

Ellen licked off the blood that dripped from her cheek, she smiled at the couple who glared back at her.

"So you were alive after all. Black Empress, Ellen...!"

The person who had spoken while fixing Ellen with a scowl was the white elf, Ceres, whose beauty was as the rumors said. She was tall and thin, with a small head and features that spoke of nobility. And even among the flames, and covered in soot, she still appeared flawless.

"This crime of attacking our village for the second time. Once and for all, we will have you pay for this with your life."

The figure standing next to her holding a bow was Evan, a citizen of the forest. He wore a wide-brimmed hat with a feather, and the eyes that peered deep underneath were green and sharp like an eagle as they shot through Ellen.

"I could say the same to you. Taste now the retribution of killing my brethren!"

Even so, Ceres and Evan were expert archers with skills that could well match Ellen's. They were bound to put up a good fight.

"Oh, have you finished talking?"

An out of place, lazy and cheery voice echoed.

"Well then, here I come!"

In the next instant, a mass of iron steel passed before Ellen's eyes. The bodies of Ceres and Evan shot up high into the air, and just like dolls, they fell heavily to the ground.

"...Wha, what was that?"

"Joe the Gorgon. His entire body is covered in a skin made of iron steel, he cannot be killed by arrows. Jill, Joel, bring them back here."

At Mio's command, the black dogs bit the clothing of Ceres and Evan with their teeth and raised them onto their backs. The bodies did not move a muscle and their limbs seemed to have been twisted in odd directions, but they were not dead.

"...Mio, I am glad you are my friend. I felt it with my heart just now."

Ellen said heartily at the plain girl, who laughed as she controlled the two massive hounds and a bull made of iron steel known as a Gorgon.

"Huh? Oh, I am happy that you are my friend as well."

Mio tilted her head to the side in bewilderment.

"Now, this is a most glorious moment."

Ellen said without hiding her smile upon seeing the prisoners locked up in their cell. The people of the forest and white elves had suffered light casualties, but most had been taken alive. The young girls especially did not have a single scratch.

"There are times when you impress me very much."

"Then you should appreciate me more, master."

Logan said in a voice that was understandably tired. It took a considerable amount of effort for him to save the girls who had not been able to flee from the engulfing flames.

"So, master. What will you do with these prisoners?"

Ellen seemed incredibly relieved now that they had taken their enemies homelands and had defeated them so completely. But she knew that Aur had need of fighting strength, so she would not torment them until they were broken. In any case, Ellen was able to laugh at the amusing prospect of them being used against their will towards avenging her comrades.

"If it were only one or two of them, I could have them thoroughly brainwashed and trained...but for this number, we will probably have to take hostages to make them obey."

Aur took the prisoners and regardless of race, separated the men and woman into different cells. He stood in front of the men's cell and raised his voice.

"You who live in the forest. My name is Aur. They call me the Demon Lord. You have been defeated by me. Obey my commands and turn in your bows."

"You mock us! Who would obey you!"

"I would rather die."

"We proud people of the forest will never succumb to evil!"

Said the elves and people of the forest together. After listening to them for a while, Aur continued.

"I applaud your spirits. ...But are you all not forgetting one thing? ...Yes. Your women."

At Aur's words, the startled men could only shake.

"If you promise to faithfully serve me, I will ensure their safety. But if you say that you will defy me..."

"...You coward."

The men spat bitterly and glowered at Aur.

"Even so, you are all people of the forest, known for your virtue and courage. The women are no different. You may have the resolve to rebel in spite of the casualties. So I will have to take the route that will be the most effective for the likes of you, with your righteous hearts."

The expressions on the faces of the men turned to deep suspicion at Aur's words.

"If the human men defy me, I shall punish the elf women. If the elf men defy me, I shall punish the human women. It will be easier to bear the thought of your new neighbors being punished rather than your own, would it not?"

"You...!"

"This is an outrage!"

Aur said with a sly grin as the men once again opened their mouths in protest.

"If humans defy you, they should be the ones that are punished!"

A single elf voice cried, and the cell fell into silence. The elves and humans who had been intermingled until now started to slowly draw away from each other.

"Indeed, it is as you say. But is it not a more effective way of dealing with you all, who are bound by trust? ...Even so, it will implicate the women. I will prepare some relief measure then."

"Relief measures...?"

Aur nodded magnanimously at the man who had asked with a hint of desperation in his voice.

"Should the elves inform on the humans for preparing for a revolt, I will have the human women punished instead of the elf women. It shall be the same for the reverse. Then we will have retributive justice. The righteous will not be punished."

The men finally began to understand what Aur was trying to say. Aur had not actually believed that[punishing others was more effective than punishing the offender]even a little. This was a condition to divide the humans and elves, to have them watch one another.

There would not be any meaning to this condition should they all rise up at once. But if one side betrayed the other, only the women of the other side would be punished. If one side prepared for a revolt without telling the other, the other side would take the fall for it. Aur was testing this trust that had grown between the humans and elves.

And Aur had sensed that the [true trust]that needed to exist between the

humans and elves in order for a united uprising to occur, would not sprout. The only reason that they had been able to unite when under attack by the dark elves, was because there was no other recourse in order to live. Just as you would flee to where the fire could not reach you, you will use the only method that is left to you. This is the same for both elves and humans.

But in situations where there are multiple ways out, things will carry out quite differently.

Different values. Different lifespans. Different standings. Even between humans, between elves, it would take time to come to a conclusion. And with this number of humans and elves, it would be impossible for them to all reach the same conclusion down to the last person. It would only take one person to destroy a plot to revolt.

With this settled, it was likely that the men would be useful as slaves for quite some time. If they worked at a distance that was not too close or too far from one another, they would continue to monitor each other.

Aur turned on his heels and made his way to another cell...a solitary cell.

After he had dealt with the people, he must go to the heads.
It was time to meet Ceres and Evan.

Part 3

"Release me this instant."

The first words to come from the lips of Ceres, the white elf princess, was a prideful order. Though in truth, she was a princess only in name, as their settlement was much too small in scale to be called a country. At most it was a village, with a mere gathering of peoples as their population.

But Ceres' appearance was distinguished, even among the white elves who were known for their beauty. She at least had the bearing of a princess, if nothing else. While being a white elf herself, Sharl looked only like an innocent young girl compared to Ceres, who was equipped with the appeals of a ripened woman.

Her arms and legs were long and thin, her height was almost the same as Aur's. Her appearance was refined and beautiful, like a well-calculated work of art. That beauty had not been lost even while the forest had burned around her. Her skin that had been scrubbed in hot water shone brightly like a pearl.

The two lumps that protruded under her ragged prison garb were generous compared to the average human, and for the usually slender white elves, her breasts would have been seen as exceptionally large.

"...Do you understand the position that you are in?"

"Of course I do. You are a base, evil and shameless lot. You should repent for your deeds this instant, and let us go free."

It seemed that Ceres was serious with her demands.

"Shameless you say...that may be so. However, the thing about humans is that they are all the same once peeled of a single layer. That includes that man you love, Evan... No, I would say that even elves all are fundamentally the same."

"You make a mockery of us! Evan is not like you! He is strong and kind, no one is so brave and virtuous as him. What would a cowardly scoundrel like you...!"

"Well then, prove it to me."

Aur saw that Ceres had taken the bait before cutting her off.

"I do not believe in any such thing as love. It is merely a deception that accompanies lust. If you insist that such a thing as true love exists, prove it to me. If you are successful, I will accept your righteousness and grant you your freedom."

"...What will you have us do?"

Perhaps she gained a vague understanding of what Aur wanted, as there was fear in her question.

"For one week, I will ravish you. You will be defiled and disgraced, you will cry and yield. If even then, your love continues without change, I will accept it as a true love and let you two go."

"...And if I refuse this proposal?"

"You two will await your deaths, without ever seeing each other again."

Ceres let out a deep sigh at Aur's answer; she made her decision.

"Very well. But this body is already Evan's. It is not for me to make this decision on my own. Allow me to meet with him just once. If he agrees, I will accept this challenge of yours."

"...You have my permission then."

Aur gave the order to Ellen, and Evan was brought to stand in front of Ceres' cell. Both of Evan's hands were bound and attached to a chain that did not allow him to get any closer to Ceres. But the two rejoiced in their reunion and whispered words of love to each other.

When the terms of the [challenge] were explained to Evan, he was astonished and went mad with rage. But when made to understand that it was their only means of survival, he accepted it solemnly.

"Ceres. No matter how much you are defiled by this evil, your light will not fade, not even a little. I swear my unchanging love to you."

"Yes, Evan... I will not succumb to evil. I will show that crafty Demon Lord with his twisted nature, what is really the most powerful and beautiful thing in this world."

"...Ceres..."

"Evan..."

"Now, that is quite enough."

Aur had become annoyed by the fact that these two young lovers could be in their own world, even in a situation such as this. He pulled Evan's chains back and handed them to Ellen.

"Well then, you should look forward to one week from now."

And he ordered for Evan to be sent back to his cell before he himself, entered into Ceres'.

"Now, I think I will have you right here and now."

So saying, Aur pulled out a medicine bottle from his pocket and handed it to Ceres.

"And what is this?"

"An aphrodisiac. I have no intention of bothering with foreplay every time."

"I...What makes you think that I would drink such a thing!?"

"It's an aphrodisiac, not a love potion. All it will do is forcefully excite your body. Is the [most beautiful thing in the world] that you spoke of, easily defeated by a mere drug?"

Aur said in a taunting voice, Ceres was at a loss for words.

"There is even a contraceptive agent combined. You should drink it if you do not want to get pregnant."

"You should have said that in the beginning!"

Ceres pulled the cork from the bottle and poured the liquid down her throat. She frowned at the bitter taste and burning sensation that erupted in her throat.

"Now, I think that I will have you service me over here, while we wait for the drug to have an effect."

Aur sat down on the bed and immediately pulled out his member.

"...Service?"

"I am telling you to caress it with your mouth and hands."

As Ceres looked at it with an expression of disgust, Aur brought out his own hand to take Ceres' and make her grasp it.

"Don't use your teeth. If you do, I'll have the same done to Evan's body with a blade."

The tension in her head from the disgust disappeared at those words, and she became calm.

"Move your hands at a constant speed. Your tongue should go up and down, it should cover everything."

Even as Ceres' head was being pushed, she nodded and frantically caressed Aur's member with her hands and mouth.

"...You are not very skilled. It will have to do, I will just enjoy this in my own way."

Aur grabbed Ceres' head with both hands and thrust his hips forward into her mouth as if ravishing her privates.

"Mmmm, nnm, mmmg...!"

Ceres let out a muffled scream as the depths of her throat was violated, but Aur ignored her and continued the attack on her mouth.

"I'm coming... You will drink it all."

And then he shot all of his seed down her throat.

"Mm....gu, ga, ha...!! Gheh.., go, hhh....!"

Ceres coughed at the abundant semen, she pulled her mouth back and vomited it out on the floor. The indescribable bitter taste and rawness assaulted her nostrils, she was enveloped in an unmatched feeling of disgust.

"I told you to drink all of it... No matter, you will be forced to drink it later. Now, it seems that the aphrodisiac has started to take effect. Lie over there and spread your legs."

Still coughing, Ceres laid her blushing body on the bed. Aur appeared to be

very confident, but Ceres was also confident in her ability to control herself.

"I will enter now."

Aur spread Ceres' legs wide apart, he instantly thrust himself into her privates. True to his boast, his was fatter and harder than Evan's, and her body which burned with the aphrodisiac felt an intense rush of pleasure.

"Ahh..."

Ceres did not make any futile attempts to resist it, she accepted the pleasure as it was. Due to their beauty, elves were often captured by humans and turned into slaves. Ceres was especially beautiful from a young age and had learned how to act in such a situation.

You would only lose your strength if you forcibly tried to resist the pleasure. It is better to accept it and to wait for an opening where you can escape. And perhaps it was because of the aphrodisiac, but Aur's act of intercourse was, ignoring the physiological disgust, capable of giving her a strong sense of pleasure.

But it was only through intercourse with Evan, that her heart could be fulfilled. No matter how much pleasure she was given, Ceres knew that sense of joy. There was no possibility of her losing her heart.

"Mmm, aa....aaaann...m, mmm..."

Aur began to move faster, perhaps because he was pleased as Ceres began to raise her voice in a sweet moan.

"I'm coming...receive it all!"

It gushed with a force that could almost be heard, Aur's seed discharged into Ceres' womb. Her body accepted it with a shudder, she sighed in relief.

Six days left. Her people would be saved if she could bear it. The Demon Lord was nothing, within the sheets he was only a man.

As she was thinking about this, her body was turned over.

"Wha...?"

"I will take you from behind next."

Without waiting for an answer, he gripped Ceres' hips tightly, and once again thrust his curved member deep inside of her.

"Ahh...wha, why...are you...again..."

"That is a strange thing to say."

Aur returned an evil smile as Ceres raised her voice in bewilderment.

"Did I not say that I would ravish you for seven days? Why, hardly a koku* has passed."

"But...surely, you jest?"

Ceres asked, her voice quivering.

"I do not. My lust is tireless. I will have you for the entirety of that one week, 84 koku*(168 hours)."

In that instant, all of the composure was drained from her expression.

*koku: archaic unit for measuring time.

Part 4

"Ahhh...haa..."

High waves, low waves.

Ceres' conscious was tossed about like a small boat between two waves, coming forward and pulling back.

Her eyes could not focus due to the intense fatigue she felt, her thoughts were scattered into a thousand shreds and would not merge together. She could only devour the high waves and moan sweetly, and shake her ass and plead when the low waves came. It was just those two.

Her entire body was covered in his seed, memories of a distaste for it were now far off, passed oblivion. Her inner thighs were dripping with thick, white liquid around both of her holes, her eyes were overcast, lightless. Her mouth was half-open, the uncertain expression on her face gave her an appearance that was far from what you would expect from a beautiful elf princess.

"Ahhhhh..."

She felt the sensation of the warm liquid pouring into her as a high wave, and just as her instincts demanded, she raised her voice in craving of that pleasure. She could no longer even think about what that meant, she could only shake her ass and plead for more.

"Mmm...ahh..."

It had been a while since Aur last pulled out of her, and she let out a thin cry. He would have ejaculated while inside of her nearly ten times by now, but she of course, had no memory of this. She could only cry at the loss of what had fulfilled her body, she tensed her weakened legs and thrust her ass outwards.

But instead of the pleasure that she had anticipated, the engorged penis was thrust in front of her eyes. Ceres filled her mouth with the semen and precum covered thing without hesitation, sucking, licking it all over.

She had not had what could be called a meal ever since she had started to have intercourse with Aur. The only thing that has entered her mouth was his

seed. As it was infused with large quantities of magic, it contained enough nutrients for her to survive, and there was plenty of it.

She had been struck with a sense of hopelessness rather than anger when he had told her to satiate her hunger with it, but she could not live for a whole week without eating or drinking. As she reluctantly drank it, she quickly became accustomed to the taste. She even began to find it pleasant.

Because Aur would ejaculate more of the thick liquid the more he was pleased, she would passionately service him, licking his meatstick up. As his hot member would invade her ample breasts, she would push them together with her hands, and as if fanning the flames of Aur's lust, stick her tongue out and lick the tip of it.

Then she would rub her cheek against the shaft and lick up the sacks full of seed. Her fingers, thin like white fish, would rub his member. Her lips that were like wild strawberries would travel up the shaft, slowly tasting it.

And vulgarly, she would stick out her tongue and open her mouth wide, enveloping the head in her mouth. At the same time she would caress it with her tongue as if tracing something, then her cheeks sunk inward and she sucked tightly.

"Mmm, mmmm..."

Ceres' eyes thinned as she loudly drunk the nectar that erupted from the tip, she swallowed all of it. What she had spat out at first, now felt more natural to savor over the tongue before drinking. Now her body would move on its own without thinking.

"Mmm..."

After drinking much of his seed, Ceres let out a satisfied moan as her body was pulled. She did not fight it, she rolled over on the sweat covered bed and opened her legs wide.

"Ahhh..."

She let out a moan as she felt the sensation of his engorged member entering her from the front. And in a sluggish movement, she wrapped her legs around Aur's back, she thrust her hips into Aur's, forcing herself towards him.

"We are nearing the end of the promised week."

Aur suddenly whispered as Ceres pleaded to be pleased.

However, she did not understand the meaning of his words, she continued to pull Aur inwards with her legs, pleading for him to be deep inside of her. Ceres preferred to be deeply penetrated rather than have her shallow places rubbed. She felt fulfilled when she was penetrated, deep within.

"Are you certain? Evan is waiting."

Evan.

With that one word, Ceres returned to herself. The fog that overcast her conscious dissipated, her four limbs that had been numb suddenly felt heavy, a tremendous weariness overtook her body.

But even so, she had regained her reason.

"Evan... I have not yielded to you...! Release Evan and everyone else!"

The eyes had regained their light, her lips were pursed, there was a strong will present in her expression. She was covered in sperm, but the brilliance that seeped from within her had a strength that covered everything else.

"...I am surprised. You had that much power left in you."

Aur's eyes had widened. That Ceres, who had been so dreamy and had greedily pleaded to be pleased would return to herself at the mere mention of the man she loved, he could do nothing but admit that the love of elves was impressive. It was no wonder that they would give most of their lives for that love.

"Very well. I am defeated. ...I will allow you to meet Evan."

Aur ordered his servants to prepare hot water, and after cleansing both himself and Ceres, slowly allowed her body to rest.

When she awoke and regained her energy, Aur guided her through the labyrinth and towards Evan's cell.

"Oh, Master... Have you lost?"

Intercepting, Lilu asked as she looked fixedly at Ceres with round eyes.

"Yes. As would be expected for a white elf princess, I was no match for her."

"You went at it for seven days straight, did you not? Incredible..."

Lilu looked impressed as she led Aur onwards and opened the wooden door.

"This one surrendered after three days."

Ceres became speechless at the sight laid out before them.

Several succubi were flying in the air, in the center was Evan, lost in the moment of ravishing a succubus. His cheeks were thin and hallowed, his eyes were vacant and shone dully as they gazed at the succubus. Only the thing that was between his legs stood up strongly, it repeatedly thrust in and out of the succubus' privates, splashing a cloudy liquid everywhere.

"Evan...?"

Even when she called him, he continued to drown himself in the act as if he could not hear.

"Evan, wake up!"

"Uh, ha...kk..a...gh."

Ceres shook his shoulder and called his name, but he did not respond and continued his intercourse with the succubus.

"Evan, I was victorious! We are now freed from this place! Evan!!!"

The pained voice of Ceres received no response from Evan, his pupils remained vacant as his hips kept moving.

"It is no use."

One of the succubi said with a snicker.

"This man has already sold his soul away. If he can continue having sex, he would not need anything else, that is what he said."

"He even said that you could not compare to us, when we asked about his lover."

"No..."

Ceres fell into despair where she was standing. In front of her, Aur's member

was presented to her. She instinctively put it in her mouth.

"Mmm!?"

Then she realized that she had another man's penis in her mouth right in front of Evan, and she tried to pull away, but Aur's hands held her in place. Evan continued to ravish the succubus, as if not caring that his lover was sucking another man in front of him.

"Your heart has indeed been victorious against pleasure. But your body is a different matter."

Aur grabbed Ceres' breasts and taunted her crotch with his foot. And with just that, her thighs became wet, flowing with nectar.

"I doubt you would feel anything with Evan in you now. I took time in remaking you to specifically fit me. Well, Evan seems to have lost both his body and heart to the succubi, that is just what humans do. It is something that you elves, who love a single partner for hundreds of years, would not understand."

Evan was not unfaithful. He had been taken against his will by the succubi, whose whole purpose in existing was to deceive men, there are none who can resist. Aur was confident that he could match them in skill, but Ceres had prevailed. She had tremendous mental strength.

But she had expected the same strength from her partner. That was her mistake.

Betrayed by he, who she had believed in, her heart that had been scrapped thin was completely shattered now.

"Ohh...Master, you haven't had me in quite a while."

Lilu embraced Aur's arm teasingly.

"I would like to know the reason that you called new succubi here instead of allowing me to entertain Evan."

Lilu said with a giggle. Aur replied bluntly.

"You are quite lacking in appeal as a succubus. I did not think it was possible for you to break him."

"Hmph, is that so? Why don't we find out right now, if I have enough or not!"

With a heave, Lilu sandwiched Aur's head with her breasts.

"I am saying that those kinds of abrupt responses are why you lack a womanly appeal. Can you not seduce someone less directly?"

While the two were succubus and summoner, the two acted almost like lovers. Ceres looked on with envy.

"But I would understand you."

Not missing her gaze, Aur whispered gently to her.

"This body has ceased to be human. While no match for an elf, I can live for several hundred years as well. I would be able to understand your feelings."

Ceres had no choice but to accept the hand offered her. She understood in her mind that it was a path that Aur had laid out. But there was no other path for her heart to take. She knew too much of the warmth of another to continue bluffing in solitude.

And so the bond between the people of the forest and the white elves was completely severed, and both became the subjects of Aur.

"Lord Aur."

After Ceres and Evan were returned to their rooms, Aur started to head towards his own room after a long period of absence, when Mary appeared in front of him.

"...What is it."

"Sophie is...soph..."

"What happened to Spina?"

Mary, who shared the same homeland as Spina, continued to call her...Sophia, her real name.

Her big eyes filled with tears as she looked up at him, Aur put her on his knee and faced her. Mary had a good understanding for her age, she understood that Aur was busy.

She would usually never bother him at a time like this, she wouldn't talk to him if it wasn't important.

"She's gone."

And this time, her hesitance brought forth a disaster. Had she brought this news to Aur sooner, perhaps their fates would have been different.

"Sofie is nowhere, for a long time."

But it was much too late.

Chapter 15.5: Dungeon Commentary

Number of Floors: 5 dungeon floors

Miasma: 80

Notoriety: 85

Saved up Magic: 45 (Units: 10,000/day)

Magic Consumption: 30 (Units: 10,000/day)

New Facilities:

Prison

A prison that allows for the holding of a large number of captives. It comes with special reinforcements as compared to the solitary cells, there is an increased likelihood of the prisoners working together to escape.

New War Potential:

Logan in Zaitlead

War Potential: 12

Consumption of Mana: 2

The appearance of Logan, the low ranking demon after he took possession of Zaitlead, the Hero of Lead's body. While the 'Curse of Lead' that nullifies all sorcery is now gone, his strength remains. While he may not be a match for the Hero Zaitlead himself, he boasts enough power to beat the average Hero, and the magic need to main it has decreased.

Metus

War Potential: 17

Not an underling to be precise, but specially recorded as one who was used. The oldest and strongest dragon that boasts overwhelming power. Its fighting capabilities as a single unit are undoubtedly unsurpassed in this world. While she does not have any noteworthy abilities besides the intensely potent poison combined with her breath and blood, her size, the strength of her scales, her power, her sharp claws, everything are threatening. Convered to war potential, Wolf was around 15, but he was able to beat her in a bid that cost him his life.

Ceres(White elf)

War Potential: 8

Maximum Magical Capacity: 7

A princess to the white elves, among the fairy elves of the forest, they are known for governing the brighter aspects, such as the blessings and comfort of the forest. Her skills with magic and a bow are said to be a good match for Ellen, the dark elf. She boasts a strength that you would not expect from such a slender form. Furthermore, she has a higher capacity for storing magic compared to the dark elf.

White elves and the people of the forest.

War Potential: 6

Maximum Magical Capacity: 2

Ceres' subjects and their allies, the people of the forest. Both are masters with the bow, but the elves can use magic on top of it. They are a rank below the dark elves that Ellen commands, and two ranks below Ellen or Ceres in terms of ability, but they make up for it with their large numbers.

Succubus

War Potential: 2

Consumption of Mana: 0.1

Maximum Magical Capacity: 10

Female demon. They generally have abilities that equal to Lili.

Lesser Demon

War Potential: 9

Consumption of Mana: 3

Lesser demons that were called as an addition. They have the same degree of strength as Logan when he is not possessing Zaitlead, but their appearances and abilities vary. And that includes their sexual tastes, which include young boys, scatophilia and zoophilia.

The Present Dungeon

The miasma has grown thick, only well trained humans are able to move in the lower floors, while demons and evil spirits can walk without being burdened. It is now at a level where corpses will arise and walk as undead unless dealt with, not just in the dungeon but even near the entrance.

Aur's notoriety spread like thunder, unless you were very far in the countryside, there were none that heard the Demon Lord's name and did not shiver. The minstrels all sang his sagas, the heroic poem of King Wolf's last stand would remain popular for quite some time.